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**GRAMMAR**

**OF THE**

**IRISH LANGUAGE,**

**COMPILED FROM THE BEST AUTHORITIES,**

**BY**

**HENRY J. MONCK MASON,**

**LL.D. M.R.I.A.**

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**THIRD EDITION.**

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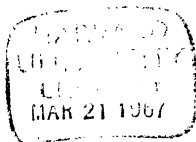
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**GOODWIN, SON, AND NETHERCOTT,**

*75, Marlborough-street.*

**1842.**

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FROM THE

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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*THE following compilation has long been withheld from the public, in the hope that some person more competent than myself would undertake the work ; but, disappointed in that expectation, and finding that no time should be lost, in furnishing the Irish student, I hasten to put it forth.*

*Let it not be objected, that I am not acquainted with the Irish as a colloquial, but only as a written, language ; I allow it ; but I have not advanced a single rule except upon the best admitted authorities ; and have decided, in cases of doubt, upon the evidence of a majority of the most approved. I have compared Molloy's, Vallancey's, Neilson's, Halliday's, O'Brien's, and O'Reilly's grammars ; and not neglected others.*



## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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*I HAVE for a long time withheld the publishing of a second edition of this work, although it has been sought for by many, by the same reason which made me slow in editing the first. I knew also that it had been severely criticised, and I was unwilling to undertake a controversy. On reading, however, the very illiberal comment to which I allude, I only drew from it the greater confidence ; and adopting some of its hints, for which I thank the author, I determined on a reprint. I must remind the public that I am not to be considered as an author, but only a compiler ; but I know that I would be an injudicious one, were I to give up the authorities upon which I have hitherto relied, to that of the very reprehensible comment which I have mentioned.*

# IRISH GRAMMAR.

## PART I.

### LETTERS.

*Their Pronunciation and Orthography.*

The Modern Irish Alphabet consists of 18 letters.

|   | Name & Form. |   |         |
|---|--------------|---|---------|
| A | Ἀ            | Ἀ | Ἀ ἰ ἡ   |
| B | Ḃ            | Ḃ | Ḃ Ḃ Ḃ   |
| C | C            | c | Coll    |
| D | Ḍ            | Ḍ | Ḍ ḏ ḏ   |
| E | e            | e | E ḁ ḁ ḁ |
| F | F            | f | F ḁ ḁ ḁ |
| G | Ḡ            | Ḡ | Ḡ ḡ ḡ   |
| I | Ḩ            | Ḩ | Ḩ ḡ ḡ   |
| L | Ḭ            | Ḭ | Ḭ ḡ ḡ   |
| M | Ḫ            | Ḫ | Ḫ ḡ ḡ   |
| N | N            | n | N ḡ ḡ   |
| O | O            | o | O ḡ ḡ   |
| P | P            | p | P ḡ ḡ   |
| R | R            | r | R ḡ ḡ   |
| S | S            | s | S ḡ ḡ   |
| T | T            | t | T ḡ ḡ   |
| U | U            | u | U ḡ ḡ   |
| H | h            | h | H ḡ ḡ   |

It will appear in the sequel how the powers of the letters V, W, and Y, are expressed in Irish. C has always the pronunciation of K; and X is expressed by cr, as Ecródur, *Exodus*.

### *Contractions in common use.*

|           |           |          |          |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| e for eḁ. | ḡ for ḡ.  | ḡ for ḡ. | ḡ for ḡ. |
| ḡ — ḡ.    | ḡ — eḁ ḡ. | ḡ — ḡ.   | ḡ — ḡ.   |
| ḡ — ḡ.    | ḡ — ḡ.    | ḡ — ḡ.   | ḡ — ḡ.   |
| ḡ — ḡ.    |           |          |          |

The vowels are five, viz. three broad, *a, o, u*, often used promiscuously in ancient manuscripts; and two slender, *e* and *i*.

The following are the sounds of the vowels; and note, that there is but one accent in Irish, to wit, that drawn up from left to right, as *bar*; and it always denotes a long syllable: it is called, *ríne fáda*.

| <i>Pronunciation.</i>  | <i>Example.</i>                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| A—1. Long and broad, as in <i>war</i> ;—   | <i>baŋ</i> , white.            |
| 2. Long and slender, like <i>i</i> in <i>fine</i> ;  | — <i>adaŋc</i> , horn.         |
| 3. Short and broad, as in <i>war-rant</i> ;  | — <i>maŋc</i> , beef.          |
| 4. Short and slender, as in <i>can</i> ;   | — <i>braŋc</i> , a garment.    |
| 5. Short and obscure, as in <i>funeral</i> ;   | — <i>comaraŋa</i> , neighbour. |
| 6. At the end of words, and before <i>ð</i> , it has a peculiar sound, like <i>oo</i> in <i>cuckoo</i> ; | — <i>peaðað</i> , sin.         |
| E—1. Long, as in <i>there</i> ;  | — <i>ne</i> , the moon.        |
| 2. Short, as in <i>egg</i> ;   | — <i>fel</i> , strife.         |
| 3. Short and obscure, like the feminine <i>e</i> in French poetry, or as in <i>broken</i> ;              | — <i>ŋillce</i> , folded.      |
| I—1. Long, as <i>ee</i> in <i>feel</i> ;   | — <i>mín</i> , fine.           |
| 2. Short, as in <i>pin</i> ;   | — <i>inir</i> , an island.     |
| O—1. Long, as in <i>store</i> ;  | — <i>món</i> , great.          |
| 2. Short, as <i>u</i> in <i>buck</i> ;   | — <i>ŋroc</i> , a trumpet.     |
| U—1. Long, as in <i>rule</i> ;   | — <i>cŋ</i> , a hound.         |
| 2. Short, as in <i>but</i> ;   | — <i>uð</i> , the breast.      |

It is to be observed of vowels—

1st. That there are no quiescent vowels at the end of words, as in English, *ex. done*. 2dly. That no vowels are ever doubled in the same syllable, as in *poor*. And 3dly. That there are never two distinct syllables made out of vowels following one another; but diphthongs and triphthongs always form one syllable, though the several vowels may be heard in the pronunciation.

The CONSONANTS are either immutable, as *l*, *n*, and *r*; or mutable, as *b*, *c*, *d*, *f*, *g*, *m*, *p*, *s*, and *t*; so called, because that, by placing over them a mark of aspiration, they either lose their primitive sound, or are altogether suppressed in pronunciation. The letters thus printed are said to be mortified, and the change thus expressed marks some of the most material inflections of the nouns and verbs. This is indeed a peculiarity in the Irish language, among European tongues, that requires the particular attention of the reader; who, if acquainted with the Hebrew, will perceive something analogous to it, in the dagesch point in that language. When the Irish is printed in the Roman letters, the effect of the point is expressed by the addition of an *h*. This greatly tends to confound learners, who, when taught the power of *h* in Irish books printed in Roman character, will have to unlearn this, when they come to read English books in the same letter. Thus they will be told, that *th* (in Irish) is to be a mere aspirate; but, when they learn to read English, they find it must be strongly sounded; and, what adds to the confusion, very much in the same manner as they were told to pronounce the simple *t*, when learning to read the Irish. The point remedies this evil; and therefore Neilson, although he published his Grammar in Roman character, had dotted letters cast for his purpose.

We shall first treat of the mutables—*B*, *F*, *M*, and *P*, unaspirated, are pronounced as in English.

*b* is like either the English *w* or *v*; it is to be observed, that the difference of the broader or more slender sound of *b*, forms one provincial difference in the pronunciation of Irish. O'Brien's rules for the pronunciation of *b* are thus:—At the beginning of words, when followed by a slender vowel, and when it terminates a word, it is usually sounded *v*; but, in cases where it is connected with a broad vowel, he says, “there is no certain standard;” neither does there seem to be any fixed rule for its pronunciation in the middle of words.

*C* is always as *K*.

*ç* has a guttural sound, which has nothing analogous to it in the English tongue, but is quite similar to that

of the Greek  $\chi$ , and Spanish *X*. There are two varieties of this sound; 1. At the beginning and end of words, when followed or succeeded by a broad vowel, or used in the middle of words in connexion with one, it has a sound like *gh* in the word *lough*; strongly pressed out through the throat. 2. When thus connected with a slender vowel, its sound is only that of a very strong aspiration.

*D* has two sounds:—1. Like *d* in Italian, or *th* in *there*, but with a greater emphasis—the other like the *d* in French, more light and liquid, but similar to the former. It seems that the breadth of the following vowel influences the choice of sound.

*ö* is the Irish *Y*. If followed by a broad vowel at the beginning of a word, it has a pronunciation to which there is nothing similar in the English language; it is then guttural, and like the German *Y*, and may be expressed by a strong forcing of this letter. 2. In the beginning of a word, and before a slender vowel, or in the middle of a word followed by any vowel, it is simply *Y*. And 3. Whenever it is followed by a consonant, or terminates a word, it is either silent, or weakly aspirated. This letter, at the end of a word, (not a monosyllable,) gives to the preceding vowel, if a broad one, a pronunciation like *oo*.

*þ* becomes quiescent; it is never used but at the beginning of words, or as the initial of the second part of compounds.

*G* is always pronounced as in *gall*, never as in *gin*.

*ǵ* is liable to the same rules as *ö*, only that at the end of words it is always silent.

*ḡ* is liable to very much the same rules as *b*. Dr. O'Brien in his Dictionary, (remarks on *M*.) says, "that the vowel or vowels which precede *b* are pronounced with a stronger, clearer, and more open expiration than those which precede *ḡ*"—we must allow for provincial varieties. O'Brien the Grammarian says, "that, preceding a slender vowel in any part of a word, or terminating a word, *ḡ* is *always* sounded as *v*." (*Grammār*.)

*þ*, always as an *F*.

*S*, as in *son*, and also as *sh*. It is perhaps impossible to give any fixed rule for the use of these; but the latter pronunciation is most common, where *s* is preceded or followed by a slender vowel, or when it terminates a word.

*ř* is always as an *h*.

*T* is sounded as *th* in *thick*, but often somewhat thicker, as if it were preceded by a *d*. Sometimes more slender. When aspirated it is pronounced as *h*.

The immutable consonants, *l*, *n*, and *r*, never suffer change from aspiration, or eclipsis.

*L*, however, has two sounds, simple and liquid: the first as in the English word *leap*; the second like the last *l* in *million*.

*N* has also two sounds; 1st. Like *n* in *never*; the second like *n* in *news*.

*R* has likewise two sounds; the first like *r* in *road*, the second like *r* in *clarion*. The single *r* "is formed by slightly touching the sound of *ee*, before as well as after the *r*."—*Neilson*.

We come now to the consideration of compound letters, as I. Vowels, which are either 1, diphthongs, or 2, triphthongs; and II. Consonants, which are either 1, doubled, or 2, joined to others.

The diphthongs are 13 in number, and the triphthongs 5: of these the following diphthongs, and all the triphthongs, are always long; and in printing or writing them the accent may be omitted—

*ae*, *ao*, *eu*, *ia*, & *ua*; O'Reilly adds *eo* & *iu*.

The examples are chiefly from O'Brien's Grammar, and Lynch—authorities relied on by O'Reilly.

### *Pronunciation.*

### *Example.*

1. *ae*, always long, as *ay* in *say*;—*Ṣael*, Irish.
2. *ai*, long, as *aw*; —*ṛaṽ*, rumour.  
short, as *e* in *err*; —*ṣaṽṽṽ*, I call.
3. *ao*, always long, as *ea* in *bear*;—*caom*, beautiful.
4. *ea*, long, as *a* in *care*; —*ṛmēaṽ*, a blackberry.  
short, as *a* in *art*; —*ceaṽṛ*, right.

| <i>Pronunciation.</i>  | <i>Example.</i>  |
|--|--|
| e <sub>4</sub> short, as <i>e</i> in <i>leg</i> ;<br>obscure, like the feminine<br><i>e</i> in French poetry ; | —be <sub>4</sub> ʒ, little.<br>—r̥i <sub>4</sub> neð, stretching out.        |
| 5. e <sub>1</sub> long, as in <i>feign</i> ;<br>short, as <i>e</i> in <i>egg</i> ;                             | —ðē <sub>1</sub> nc, alms.<br>—ne <sub>1</sub> c, sell.                      |
| 6. eo long, as <i>eo</i> in <i>yeoman</i> ;<br>short, like <i>you</i> in <i>young</i> ;                        | —ceō <sub>1</sub> l, a song.<br>—ðeo <sub>1</sub> c, drink. <i>O'Brien</i> . |

According to Halliday, there are but six instances in use in which this short pronunciation is used.

7. eu always long, as *ay* in  
*mayor* ; —meu<sub>1</sub>r, a finger.
8. ɪ<sub>4</sub> always long, as *ee* in *peer* ; —ʒu<sub>1</sub>ɪ<sub>4</sub>n, the sun.
9. ɪ<sub>10</sub> long, as *ee* in *keen* ; —f̥i<sub>10</sub>n, wine.  
short, as *i* in *kiss* ; —l̥i<sub>10</sub>r, a fort.
10. ɪ<sub>u</sub> long, as *ew* in *few* ; —f̥i<sub>u</sub>, worthy.  
short, as the French *eu* in  
*feu*, but shorter ; —f̥li<sub>u</sub>c, wet.
11. o<sub>1</sub> long, and stress on *o*, as  
*oe* in *sloe* ; —cō<sub>1</sub>r, just.  
long, and stress on *i*, as *i*  
in *mile* ; —o<sub>1</sub>ʒne<sub>1</sub>cōb, inheritance.  
long, as *ee* in *bee* ; —c̥mo<sub>1</sub>ðe, heart.  
short, as *ea* in *thread*, and  
not common ; —o<sub>1</sub>ðe, teacher.
12. u<sub>4</sub> always long, as *oo* in *poor* ; —fu<sub>4</sub>r, cold.
13. u<sub>1</sub> long, as two syllables ;  
pronounced as *soo-il* ; —r̥u<sub>1</sub>l, the eye.  
long, as *uee* in *queen* ; —b̥u<sub>1</sub>ðe, yellow.  
short, as *ui* in *quill* ; —fu<sub>1</sub>l, the blood.

It is to be observed of these pronunciations that some of them are not common.

The five triphthongs all end in *i*, and are often used to express the genitives, and other inflexions, of words in which diphthongs occur.

1. 4o<sub>1</sub>, like *ee* in *queen* ; —c4o<sub>1</sub>n, tender.
2. eo<sub>1</sub>, like two syllables, with the  
force on *o*, and the *i* short ; —Eo<sub>1</sub>n, (*Owen*) *John*.

*Pronunciation.**Example.*

3. 1a1, as *ea* in *year*, with a kind of } 1a11nceann, the pole  
force on both *i*'s. (*Neilson*). } of the head.
4. 1u1, like the pronunciation of  
*ue* in *fuel*, with the force  
on *u*, and the latter *i* gently  
sounded ; —c1u10, meek.
5. ua1, with a sound of all the  
vowels ; the *v* as *oo*, and the  
force on it ; the others very  
quick, as *ōō—ă—ěe* ; —ua13, graves.

I. Consonants doubled are *cc*, *pp*, and *tt* ; they are used only at the beginning of words, and pronounced respectively as *g*, *b*, and *d*.

The double sound of *l* and *n* is formed, as Mr. Neilson well remarks, (p. 141,) “by placing the tongue to press on the upper fore-teeth and the gums, while the point is perceptible between the teeth—the only difference is, that the aspiration to *l* is guttural, and to *n* nasal.” The latter is like the *gn* in the French *Seigneur*.

The sound of *rr* is peculiar, and cannot be explained by writing. Mr. Lynch gave the writer the following rule—“*primum levigatum, secundum aspiratum.*”

II. Consonants joined together ; these are of two kinds—1. such as influence each other in the manner called Eclipsis ; 2. such as do not.

I. Eclipsis is of most important consideration in the study of the Irish language, as by it, and by the aspiration of initial letters, of which we have already treated, the inflexions of verbs and nouns are chiefly marked. It is when the leading consonant of any word is made to become entirely mute, or much altered in its sound, by having another consonant prefixed.

All the mutables, except *m*, are subject to eclipsis ; the immutables cannot be eclipsed. And a consonant, to be eclipsed, must be followed by a vowel, by *l* or *r*, or by *s* before an *l*, *n*, or *r*.



Is to be pronounced

|   |           |   |  |
|---|-----------|---|--|
| m | } eclipse | b | thus, $\Delta\pi$ $\mu\beta\pi\sigma\eta$ , our sorrow ; — $\Delta\pi$ $\mu\pi\sigma\eta$ .                              |
| z |           | c | — $\Delta\pi$ $\zeta\kappa\alpha\lambda\pi\tau$ , our visit ; — $\Delta\pi$ $\zeta\kappa\alpha\lambda\pi\tau$ .          |
| n |           | d | — $\Delta\pi$ $\eta\delta\acute{\upsilon}\lambda$ , our desire ; — $\Delta\pi$ $\eta\acute{\upsilon}\lambda$ .           |
| b |           | f | — $\Delta\pi$ $\beta\acute{\epsilon}\mu\lambda$ , our blood ; — $\Delta\pi$ $\beta\mu\lambda$ .                          |
| n |           | z | — See below.   |
| b |           | p | — $\Delta\pi$ $\beta\pi\alpha\lambda\pi\beta\epsilon$ , our child ; — $\Delta\pi$ $\beta\alpha\lambda\pi\beta\epsilon$ . |
| t |           | r | — $\Delta\eta$ $\tau\acute{\rho}\lambda\alpha\tau$ , the rod ; — $\Delta\eta$ $\tau\lambda\alpha\tau$ .                  |
| d |           | t | — $\Delta\pi$ $\delta\tau\acute{\iota}\mu$ , our country ; — $\Delta\pi$ $\delta\acute{\iota}\mu$ .                      |

It is to be particularly remembered, that the eclipsing letters are added to the commencement of each word ; so that, in looking in the Dictionary for these several terms, we shall find them there under the second letter : thus look for  $\zeta\kappa\alpha\lambda\pi\tau$  under *C*. From this it is clear, that, although the eclipsed letter be omitted in pronunciation, it must not be so in writing ; no more than we can omit *k* in writing the word *knot*.

*F* is said by Vallancey to be eclipsed by *m*, *d*, and *t* ; but he confounds with eclipsing certain cases, in which the possessive pronouns  $\mu\sigma$ ,  $\delta\sigma$ , and  $\tau\sigma$ , for  $\delta\sigma$ , are united with the following noun : in such cases apostrophes should in propriety have been used, as  $\delta'\acute{\epsilon}\alpha\pi\zeta$ , for  $\delta\sigma$   $\acute{\epsilon}\alpha\pi\zeta$ , *thine anger*. There is a peculiarity in the eclipsing of *f* by a *b*, which is, that if it be followed by a broad vowel, the *b* becomes mutable and is sounded as *v* or *w* ; thus in the instance adduced of  $\beta\acute{\epsilon}\mu\lambda$ , pronounced  $\beta\mu\lambda$ .

The pronunciation of *ng* is very peculiar, and not to be described by a strict analogy : it is to be uttered with a nasal catch, like *ng* in *longing*, but much stronger ; and never as if written thus, *fungus*.

*S* does not suffer eclipsis, except when followed by a vowel, or by *l*, *n*, or *r*, and preceded by the article *an*.—*O'Reilly*.

A list of cases in which eclipsis takes place, as well as those where aspiration occurs, shall be given hereafter ; and, note, the same circumstances which require eclipsis in consonants, require the use of *n* before vowels.—*O'Reilly*.

2. Consonants joined together in the same word, where eclipsis does not operate.

*gn* has a peculiar sound, rather nasal; and as if a very slender *e*, or the sheva, as in Hebrew, were pronounced between them.

ḡl as ll, as cōblaḡ, sleep—pronounced collaḡ.

lḡ as ll, as colḡa, flesh—colla.

ḡḡ is pronounced as ḡḡ, as cḡḡa, the same—canna; with the peculiar pronunciation of ḡḡ explained in p. 11.

In many cases the slight sound of *e*, of which we have spoken, is frequently heard between other consonants, when they occur united in the same word.

I must observe, that, in treating of pronunciation, I have advanced nothing but on the best admitted authorities.

*Exercises, principally for the pronunciation of the aspirated, liquid, and double consonants; extracted literatim from Patrick Lynch's Foir-oirdear.*

|         | Meaning.    | Pronunciation.   |
|---------|-------------|------------------|
| ḡ cōr,  | his foot;   | <i>a chuss.</i>  |
| ḡ brat, | his cover;  | <i>a vrath.</i>  |
| ḡ ōuḡ,  | his fort;   | <i>ayhoon.</i>   |
| ḡ ḡarḡ, | his beef;   | <i>avārth.</i>   |
| ḡ ḡorḡ, | his garden; | <i>ayhurth.</i>  |
| ḡ ḡir!  | O man!      | <i>a irr!</i>    |
| ḡ ḡōḡ,  | his kiss;   | <i>a foag.</i>   |
| ḡ ḡuḡl, | his eye;    | <i>a hoo-il.</i> |
| ḡ ḡir,  | his land;   | <i>a hee-ir.</i> |

#### LIQUIDS.

|               | Feminine.           | Pronunciation.    |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| laḡ, hand;    | ḡ laḡ, her hand;    | <i>all haur.</i>  |
| ḡearḡ, force; | ḡ ḡearḡ, her force; | <i>ann yārth.</i> |
| ḡiḡ, a king;  | ḡ ḡiḡ, her king;    | <i>arrhee.</i>    |

|                        |            |                     |
|------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| cc as ḡ, as ḡr ccearḡ, | our right; | <i>ar ḡārth.</i>    |
| pp as b, as ḡr pḡarḡ,  | our need;  | <i>ar braw-in.</i>  |
| cc as d, as ḡr cceirḡ, | our fire;  | <i>ar dinne.</i>    |
| ḡḡ nasal, as ḡr ḡḡarḡ, | our hate;  | <i>ar-ngraw-in.</i> |

*Practice of words of more difficult or peculiar pronunciation, from the same.*

|               | <i>Meaning.</i>  | <i>Pronunciation.</i> |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| ადარც         | horn,            | eye-arc.              |
| აჭაიდ,        | face,            | eye.                  |
| ადრად,        | adore,           | eyeru.                |
| ამარი,        | river,           | avvuin.               |
| ადბარ,        | cause,           | awur.                 |
| ბოჯა,         | a bow,           | bow.                  |
| ბუდეან,       | property,        | buee-an.              |
| ცაბარი,       | succour,         | cowair.               |
| ჩაჯაი,        | to get,          | fowill.               |
| ქოცა,         | covering,        | fulläccha.            |
| ჯაბა,         | smith,           | gow.                  |
| ჯუმუი,        | fir-tree,        | gee-ooish.            |
| ლობ,          | leper,           | llowvar.              |
| ოქეამნაც,     | fitting,         | errunach.             |
| რამარ,        | fat,             | rauwar.               |
| რამლუჯად,     | pattern,         | sawvlo.               |
| ტაიბბე,       | apparition,      | thoershey.            |
| ბაბ,          | stuttering,      | balluv.               |
| ცეაღ,         | a sting,         | kallag.               |
| ბოიბ,         | sorrow,          | dolliv.               |
| ქეარ,         | anger,           | farrag.               |
| ქეიბ,         | possession,      | shelliv.              |
| ქეაღ,         | mild,            | shallug.              |
| ბაიდეაქარაც,  | thankful,        | baechassach.          |
| კომ-მეარუჯად, | comparison,      | covvassoo.            |
| ჯიომ-ეაქტაც,  | feat-performing, | gneeevedghtach.       |
| ლაქეამუი,     | daily,           | laehoo-il.            |

## PART II.

## WORDS, OR PARTS OF SPEECH.

I SHALL adopt Mr. O'Reilly's division of the parts of speech into ten, in preference to that of Mr. O'Brien, who does not separate the adjective from the noun ; or that of Mr. Halliday, who omits the participle. They are the Article, Noun Substantive, Noun Adjective, Pronoun, Verb, Participle, Adverb, Conjunction, Preposition, and Interjection.

*Of the ARTICLE.*

There is but one Article, *an*, which signifies *the*: it has but one variation, *na*, which occurs in the genitive case singular of the feminine gender, and in all the cases of the plural—*n* is added in the genitive plural, when the noun commences with a vowel, or with the influenced letters, *o* or *z*; but the *n* in this case more properly belongs to the noun. It is thus declined—

| <i>Singular.</i>                                   | <i>Plural.</i> |
|--|----------------|
| <i>Nom.</i> the— <i>an</i> .....                   | <i>na</i> .    |
| <i>Gen.</i> of the— <i>Masc. an, Fem. na, na</i> . |                |
| <i>Dat.</i> to the— <i>an</i> .....                | <i>na</i> .    |

In dative and ablative cases, when following the prepositions *do to*, *fo under*, *ua* and *o from*, and some others ending with vowels, *an* unites with the preposition, and the *a* is omitted—ex. *do'n*, *ua'n*, and *o'n*, for *do an*, *ua an*, and *o an*; but in such cases an apostrophe should properly be written or printed.

*Of NOUNS SUBSTANTIVE.*

To Nouns belong number, gender, case, and declension. There are but two numbers in Irish, singular and plural; but two genders, masculine and feminine; and six cases, the Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative, Vocative, and Ablative.

Declension shows forth the changes which nouns undergo in their several varieties of number and case. There is nothing in which modern Irish Grammarians differ so much, and so materially, as in the declension of nouns; some of them, forgetting the great antiquity and eastern character of the language, have endeavoured to cramp it to the mould of European rules. A Grammarian should not, indeed, pass by the influence which these must naturally have upon the Irish tongue, through the use of it by persons who are in continual contact with others, whose language was constructed on a different principle; but, according to the system of O'Brien, adopted by O'Reilly, and most others, we must look for the inflexions of nouns *chiefly* to the beginning of the words, while we must not neglect their terminations. Acting upon this principle, it matters not whether, with O'Brien, I make the number of declensions to be three; or with O'Reilly, four; as his first and second are but sub-divisions of O'Brien's first. O'Reilly's division is perhaps preferable: and I shall follow it, because it induces fewer exceptions to general rules.

Respecting the formation of the cases of regular nouns, I must premise, that the Nominative and Accusative, in both Substantives and Adjectives, are always the same; so are the Dative and Ablative—I shall not, therefore, from henceforth, always notice the Accusative or Ablative cases, in speaking of the rules, or exhibiting the declensions, of either species of Nouns. The Vocative of masculine nouns is generally like the Nominative, and the Vocative of Feminine sometimes like the Nominative. The Nominative Plural is generally the same with the Genitive Singular; and the Genitive Plural with the Nominative Singular. The first part of this rule will be found to agree with many other languages, for instance, in the Latin, *libri*, &c.

The first declension of Substantives is of Feminine Nouns, commencing with vowels; the Genitive requires *h* to be prefixed; so do all the other cases of the Plural, except the Genitive, which requires an *n* after the article.

*Example:—*015, \*a virgin.

**Sing.**

*Plur.*

*Nom.* 49 015, the virgin.

*Nom.* ႏၢ ႁၢ, the virgins.

*Gen.* na hojze, of the virgin. *Gen.* na noz, of the virgins.

*Dat.* do'η or do aη oηʒ, to the virgin.  
*Dat.* do ηa hoʒaηb, to the virgins.

### 2d Decl. Masculine Nouns beginning with vowels.

The nom. and accusative singular require *t* to be prefixed. The genitive singular does not require an *h*. The plural is as in the first declension.

*Example—1415, \*a fish.*

*Sing.*

*Plur.*

*Nom.* אֲנִי טִי־אֵשׁ, the fish.

**Nom.** ᵐᵃ ᵑᵉᵛᵣᵉ, ᵑᵉᵛᵣᵉ, the fishes.

*Gen. an circ.*

*Gen. na nīarc.*

*Dat.* do'ŋ, or do aŋ ɬaɾʒ. *Dat.* doŋa ɬɪaɾcaɪb̌, ɬɪaɾca.

The gender, then, of a noun beginning with a vowel is easily ascertained in the singular number; for if *t* be prefixed to the nominative or accusative, or *h* omitted from the genitive, it is masculine.

### 3d Decl. Feminine Nouns beginning with consonants.

In this declension the initial letter of gen. sing. never suffers variation, but all mutable consonants, (except *d*, *s*, and *t*,) if the article be used, must be aspirated in the other cases of the sing. In the plural there is no change, except in the gen. which must be eclipsed, if commencing with a consonant that can suffer eclipse, unless it be an *s*. Some grammarians eclipse the dative sing.; and O'Reilly, by his example, which is that used here, allows that it may be sometimes expressed by eclipse, sometimes by aspiration.

*Example*—colam, a dove.

*Sing.*

*Plur.*

*Nom.* an colam, the dove.

*Nom.* ηαcola, me, or colama.

**Gen. na cola<sub>1</sub>me, or cola<sub>2</sub>ma. Gen. na 3cola<sub>2</sub>m.**

*Dat.* do'ŋ. colam, ʒcolam, *Dat.* do ŋa colam, ɬb. colame.

\* The addition of the article changes the meaning from *a* to *the*, from indefinite to definite.

If the noun begin with *s*, followed by a vowel, or by *l*, *n*, or *r*, it must be eclipsed instead of aspirated, by having *t* prefixed to all the cases of the sing. except the genitive and vocative.

*Example*.—*ῥύιλ*, an eye:  
*Nom.* *αη ῥύιλ*, the eye.  
*Gen.* *να ῥύιλ*.  
*Dat.* *δο'η ῥύιλ*.

#### 4th. Decl. Masculine Nouns beginning with consonants.

In this, the initial letter of the gen. sing. if a mutable consonant must be aspirated, except it be an *s*, followed by a vowel, or by *l*, *n*, or *r*. The dative sing. must be aspirated or eclipsed. The genitive plural must be eclipsed, and the vocatives aspirated. The other cases suffer no change.

Ο and τ sometimes afford an exception, as Οἱα God, genitive Οε.

*Example*.—*κραῖ*, a tree.

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <i>Sing.</i>  | <i>Plur.</i>                  |
| <i>Nom.</i> <i>αη κραῖ</i> , the tree.  | <i>Nom.</i> <i>να κραῖ</i> .  |
| <i>Gen.</i> <i>αη κραῖ</i> .  | <i>Gen.</i> <i>να ζκραῖ</i> . |
| <i>Dat.</i> <i>δο'η ζκραῖ</i> or <i>κραῖ</i> . <i>Dat.</i> <i>δο να κραῖαῖ</i> — <i>κραῖα</i> . |                               |

Nouns of this declension, beginning with *s*, and followed by a vowel, or by *l*, *n*, or *r*, require *t* to be prefixed in the genitive, dative, and ablative singular.

Immutable consonants suffer no initial changes; but, if the nouns with which they commence be feminine, they are marked by a broader, or double, pronunciation after the article.

The inflexions of nouns are I. often connected with changes in the vowels contained in them; these become more attenuated than in the nom. cases, or the reverse: they also II. influence the terminations of nouns. Connected with the changes of the vowels, it will be necessary to make some observations on the genders of nouns; but I shall very much diminish the number of rules, with their exceptions, which are laid down by grammarians, as they are difficult, uncertain,

and perplexing; and present only a few of them, and such as are generally admitted to be correct.\*

One test of genders is the use of the article in the gen. sing. If *an* agrees with the noun it is masculine, if *na*, feminine. The use of the aspirated genitive singular, and of the *t* or *h* prefixed, according to rules already laid down, are also tests. Most nouns whose last vowel is broad, or an *e* followed by a consonant, are masculine; and those whose last vowel is slender, are feminine. All proper names of men, and in general names of offices belonging to men, and nouns signifying males, are masculine; but names of women, and of offices peculiar to them, and nouns signifying females, are feminine.

The names of countries and rivers are feminine.

Diminutives ending in *ean* or *an* are masculine, and those ending in *eo3*, *o3*, or *in*, are feminine.

Derivatives ending in *ac*, *ai3e*, *ui3e*, *ai3e*, *ea3*, *oi3*, or *eo3i3*, and derivative or abstract nouns in *ar* or *ear*, are masculine.

Those taking an increase, and ending in a slender vowel, are feminine, as *bra3e*, perpetuity; and abstract nouns ending in *act* or *ecb* are feminine.

Nouns compounded of two substantives are of the gender of the latter.

II. With respect to the inflexions of the terminations of nouns, the rules that are simple and most general are as follows—

1. The dative and abl. sing. generally terminate like the nom. sing. but the dative and ablative plural are formed by the addition of *ai3*, if the last vowel of the nom. sing. be broad, and of *i3* if it be slender. Some nouns, however, that transpose their final consonant in the gen. sing. as *ualac*, *a burden*, gen. *ualca*, form the dat. and abl. plur. by making the addition to the gen. as *ualca3i3*: but in words of one syllable, they some-

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\* It is recommended to the learner not to incur himself with these rules, until after that he may have acquired some general knowledge of the language.



times end like the nom. plur. as  $\eta\alpha \pi\iota\tau$  *the men*,  $\delta\omicron \eta\alpha \pi\iota\tau$  *to the men*.

2. Regular masculine nouns ending in unaspirated consonants, seldom change their final letter: but, if the last vowel be broad, it is attenuated in the gen. by the insertion of  $\iota$  after it, thus  $\beta\eta\alpha\tau$ , *a garment*, gen.  $\beta\eta\alpha\iota\tau$ ; if of the feminine gender, they require, besides this attenuation, (where the last vowel is broad,) the addition  $\epsilon$  to the gen. thus,  $\kappa\omicron\tau$ , *a leg*,  $\kappa\omicron\iota\tau\epsilon$ .

3. Regular nouns ending in aspirated consonants, excepting  $\acute{\epsilon}$ ; seldom vary their terminations in any cases, except the dat. plur.; but, if the nom. terminate in  $\acute{\epsilon}$ , the gen. sing. generally ends in  $\acute{\zeta}$ : some nouns of one syllable, as  $\epsilon\alpha\acute{\epsilon}$  *a horse*,  $\lambda\alpha\omicron\acute{\epsilon}$  *a hero*,  $\kappa\pi\omicron\acute{\epsilon}$  *saffron*, retain  $\acute{\epsilon}$  in the gen. thus,  $\epsilon\iota\acute{\zeta}$  *of a horse*, &c.

4. Words having  $\alpha$  or  $\omicron$  for their last vowel, are often irregular in their attenuation; but the diphthong  $\epsilon\alpha$  is generally changed into  $\epsilon\iota$  or  $\iota$ ,  $\epsilon\upsilon$  into  $\epsilon\omicron\iota$ ,  $\iota\alpha$  into  $\epsilon\iota$ , and  $\iota\omicron$  into  $\epsilon\alpha$  in the masculine, and  $\iota$  in the feminine, though with exceptions.

5. Nouns in  $\iota\tau$ , except derivatives in  $\omicron\iota\tau$ , usually have the gen. sing.  $\alpha\tau$  or  $\alpha\tau\alpha$  in the masculine, and  $\alpha$ ,  $\acute{\alpha}$  or  $\acute{\alpha}\alpha$  in the feminine.

6. Nouns ending in vowels generally terminate all the cases of the sing. alike, but some take  $\eta\alpha$  or  $\alpha\eta\alpha$  in the gen. sing.; many nouns ending in vowels make no final change in any case, but the dative and ablative plural.

7. Substantives ending in  $\iota\tau$ , or  $\iota\omicron\tau$ , generally make their plurals in  $\alpha\eta\eta\alpha$ .

8. In masc. nouns the voc. terminates like the gen. excepting such as take a broad increase in the gen. Feminine nouns terminate their voc. like the nom.

I have taken much pains to condense from the best authorities, and to simplify, the foregoing rules. They seem to admit of the fewest exceptions; and I think that it will sufficiently appear, from a consideration of them, and still more were the subject to be followed through the conflicting opinions of grammarians, that any attempt to regulate the inflexions of nouns, by

exclusive or principal attention to their final changes and attenuations, must lead to endless perplexity.

I shall present here the modes of declining the following nouns—*la a day*, *mí a month*, *crô a hovel*, *bô a cow*, *bean a woman*, and *clāñ children*. I omit many others that are irregular, but of less common use.

The following are taken from *O'Brien* and *O'Reilly*.

*la a day*, masc.

| <i>Sing.</i>               | <i>Plur.</i>   |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Nom.</i> la.....        | laeē, laoiē.   |
| <i>Gen.</i> lae, laoi..... | la.            |
| <i>Dat.</i> la, lo.....    | laeēb, laoiēb. |

*mí a month*, masc. and fem.

| <i>Sing.</i>                          | <i>Plur.</i>    |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Nom.</i> an mí, or mí.....         | na mīora,       |
| <i>Gen.</i> na mīora, or an mīor..... | na mī, or mīor. |
| <i>Dat.</i> do'n mīr, or mīr.....     | do na mīoraib.  |

*crô a hovel*, masc.

| <i>Sing.</i>   | <i>Plur.</i>         |
|--|----------------------|
| <i>Nom.</i> an crô .....   | na craoi, or craoiē. |
| <i>Gen.</i> an craoi .....   | na zcraô, or crô.    |
| <i>Dat.</i> do'n zcraô, or crú, or crô. do na craoiēb, or craoiēb. |                      |

*bô a cow*, fem.

| <i>Sing.</i>                    | <i>Plur.</i>   |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Nom.</i> an bô.....          | na ba, or bai. |
| <i>Gen.</i> na bô, or bóin..... | na mbô.        |
| <i>Dat.</i> do'n bóin .....     | do na buaib.   |

*bean a woman*, fem.

| <i>Sing.</i>                | <i>Plur.</i>     |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Nom.</i> an bean.....    | na mha.          |
| <i>Gen.</i> na mha .....    | na ban, or mban. |
| <i>Dat.</i> do'n mhaoi..... | do na mhaib.     |

*clāñ a tribe*, or *children*, fem.

| <i>Sing.</i>                 | <i>Plur.</i>  |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Nom.</i> clāñ.....        | na clāñ.      |
| <i>Gen.</i> na clāñe.....    | na zclāñain.  |
| <i>Dat.</i> do'n zclāñ ..... | do na clāñai. |

*án* is expressive of the diminution of a substantive, thus *cnoc a hill*, *cnocán a hillock*. Some of these have inferior diminutions, as *cnóicín a very small hill*; which are formed by adding the *í* of the primitive gen. in the penultimate syllable, and changing the last *a* into *í*.

### Of NOUNS ADJECTIVE.

Nouns Adjective abound in the Irish language, and to them its poetry owes much of its beauty and force: like substantives they suffer changes, both in their initials and terminations, which mark their relation to other words; and the same circumstances contribute to these changes, as cause similar variations in substantives.

The adjectives generally follow their substantive; and, when they precede them, they suffer no change in their termination: but, if they begin with vowels, they will require a *t* prefixed to the nom. sing. masc. *h* to the gen. sing. fem. and *n* to the gen. plural, when preceded by the article. They suffer no change in their terminations, when they end with vowels; and, when monosyllables are placed before a substantive, so as to form a compound with it, they are inflected as noun substantives are.

Adjectives following substantives generally suffer changes as follows—

I. With mutables for their initials, (except *d*, *s*, or *t*, following a noun ending with *n*,) they must be aspirated in the nom.\* and voc. sing. of the fem. gender, and in the gen. dat. and voc. sing. of the masc. gender; likewise in the plural the gen. fem. must be aspirated.

II. Terminating in consonants, and having 1. Their last vowel broad, they require in the masc. gender an *i* after them, or else to have the broad vowel changed to an *i* in the gen. sing.; but, if they be of the fem. gender, there must be added a small increase in the gen. sing. 2. If their last vowel be slender, there is

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\* Neilson adds the dative and ablative also; but O'Reilly prefers eclipsing them.

no change from the nom. in the gen. masc. but a small increase in the genitive feminine.

3. According to some grammarians, all the cases of the plural, except the genitive, take a broad increase, if the last be a broad vowel; and a slender increase, if the last vowel be slender.

Some few adjectives of one syllable, with their last vowel broad, take a broad increase in their genitive feminine; and some, as well as substantives, are so irregular, that they are not reducible to rule.

Two instances of adjectives, declined in the first three cases of both numbers, will suffice as examples here.

*չրա՞ն արծ, a high tree, masc.*

*Sing.*

*Plur.*

*Nom.* ան ւրա՞ն արծ..... ղա ւրա՞ն արծա.

*Gen.* ան յւրա՞ն արծ..... ղա յւրա՞ն արծ.

*Dat.* Ծո՛ղ ւրա՞ն օր յւրա՞ն արծ. Ծօ ղա ւրա՞ն արծ.

*բաւ արծ, a tall woman, fem.*

*Nom.* ան ւբաւ արծ..... ղա մաւ արծա.

*Gen.* ղա մաւ արծ..... ղա ւբաւ արծ.

*Dat.* Ծօղ մաւ արծ, օր արծ. Ծօ ղա մաւ արծ, օր արծ.

#### DEGREES OF COMPARISON.

There are regularly but three; but in poetry the bards, as Mr. O'Brien remarks, "passed the ordinary bounds; and upon the superlative, which their heated imaginations made the positive degree, raised a second comparative and superlative;" and on this even a third of each of these.

The comparative now in common use is formed by adding *e* to the positive; and attenuating the last vowel, if it be broad. The superlative is the same as the comparative, with the addition of the particle *ար*. It is also expressed by the following particles added to the positive, which aspirate its initial letter, if it be a mutable consonant.—

ան, րան, բո.



|     |                 |                  |
|-----|-----------------|------------------|
| 11, | aoṇ dēa3,       | aoṇaḁ dēa3.      |
| 20, | ṛiṭṭe,          | ṛiṭṭeaaḁ,        |
| 21, | aoṇ a3ur ṛiṭṭe, | aoṇmaḁ ṛiṭṭeaaḁ. |
| 22, | dō a3ur ṛiṭṭe,  | daṛa ṛiṭṭeaaḁ.   |

Two more instances will exhibit the nature of these compounds, up to 100.

|       |                   |                         |
|-------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 30,   | deĩc aṛ ṛiṭṭeaaḁ, | deĩcmeaaḁ aṛ ṛiṭṭeaaḁ.  |
| 31,   | aoṇ dēa3 7 ṛiṭṭe, | aoṇaḁ dēa3 aṛ ṛiṭṭeaaḁ. |
| 100,  | cēaaḁ,            | cēaaḁaḁ.                |
| 200,  | da cēaaḁ,         | da cēaaḁaḁ.             |
| 1000, | mĩle,             | mĩleaaḁ.                |

There is an idiom in very common use, which is to call 7 great 6—

*Ex. mōĩṛ ṛeĩṛĩṛ, 7.*

Persons are thus—aoṇ, one person; dĩṛ or beĩṛ, two persons; tĩṛ, three; and so on, ceaaṛaṛ, cĩṛ3ṛ, ṛeĩṛ3ṛ, ṛeṭṭaṛ, oṭṭaṛ, naoṇmaṛ, deĩcnaṛ. Numbers over ten are thus expressed—aoṇ-ṛ3ṛ-dēa3, *eleven men*, &c. The influence of these numbers on aspiration shall be noticed hereafter.

The termination of a vowel before ṛ is therefore often indicative of person, and, added to a word, gives it that character; thus mealṭa, *deceived*, mealṭaṛ, or mealṭoṛ, *deceiver*.

The termination aṭc is, in general, the sign of a substantive formed from an adjective, somewhat similar to the termination *ness* in English; thus, ṛeaaṛmĩṛt *manly*, ṛeaaṛmĩlaṭc *manliness*. When the primitive adjective ends in ṭa, the substantive is formed by the addition of ṛ, thus, maṭaṇṭa, *honest*, maṭaṇṭaṛ, *honesty*.

The following example will serve to exhibit some of the combinations usual, in the formation of derivative words, in the Irish language; but I do not conceive it necessary to enlarge upon this subject here.

mealṭa *deceived*, is the part. past of the verb *to deceive*.  
mealṭaṛ *a deceiver*, mealṭaṛmeaaṭc *deceit*.  
mealṭaṇ *a low deceiver*, mealṭaṇaṛ *low deceit*.

There is a general rule in the composition of words, which is much quarrelled with by many grammarians, as having somewhat injured the language by the strictness with which it has been adhered to. It will be found to have been very generally adopted. It is technically called *leatán ne leatán, 7 caol ne caol*; or *broad with broad, and slender with slender*: and it makes it necessary, “*that the vowel which goes before a consonant, must be of the same class with the vowel which follows that consonant*; i.e. *both broad or both slender*. Hence we have *feall treason*, and *fealtair a traitor*; but from *cairt speech*, we cannot by this rule have *cairtair*, so that this termination must be thus, *cairtioir*.”—(See O'Reilly's Preface to his Dictionary, c. II. Neilson and O'Brien.)

### Of PRONOUNS.

Pronouns are of six kinds—Personal, Possessive, Relative, Demonstrative, Interrogative, and Indefinite.

The personal pronouns are—*me I, tu thou or you, e or se he, i or sí she*. They are thus declined—

*me, I.*

*Sing.*

*Plur.*

*Nom.* *me I*..... *riú we*.

*Gen.* *mo mine, or belonging to me*, *ar our, or of us*.

*Dat.* *da'm or do'm, for do dúiú, for do iú, to us*,  
*me, to me*.

*Acc.* *me me*..... *iú or riú us*.

*Ab.* *ra'm, for rað me, from ra'íú, for rað iú, from us*,  
*me*.

*tu, thou.*

*Nom.* *tu thou* ..... *iú or riú ye*.

*Gen.* *do thine, or of or belonging to thee*, *dar or ður, your, or of you*.

*Dat.* *ðr'ic, for do tu, to thee*, *ð'íú, for do iú, to ye*.

*Acc.* *tu thou*..... *iú or riú, ye*.

*Voc.* *tu O thou*..... *iú re O ye*!

*Ab.* *ra'íð or ra'ic, for ra'íú, for rað iú, from ye*,  
*rað tu, from thee*.

re he, and ri she.

*Sing.*

*Plur.*

**Nom.** re he, and ri she..... ɣad or ɣɣad they.

**Gen.** a his, belonging to a their, or of them.  
him; hers, or be-  
longing to her; its.

**Dat.** do to him; d'ri, for doɣb to them.  
do ri, to her.

**Acc.** e him, it; i her..... ɣad them.

**Ab.** ɣad from him; ɣaɣ'ad ɣadɕa from them.  
and ɣadɕri, for ɣad ri,  
from her.

The possessives are, mo mine, do thine, or your, and a his, hers, its, or theirs. These are only the genitives of the personal pronouns.

There is an emphatic form belonging to both personal and possessive pronouns—thus, me is *I*; but the addition of re, thus, mɣre, creates the emphatic meaning, *I myself*.

This addition is of re or ri in the 1st person, ra or re in the 2d, and ri, rri, or ran, in the 3d person sing. e in the 1st person, re in the 2d, and ran in the 3d person plural.

### Example.

mɣre myself.

ɕɣra thyself, dɣɣre to thyself.

ɣɣri or ɣrean himself, rri or rri ri herself, do ran to himself.

ri re or rri re ourselves.

ri re yourselves, dɣre to yourselves.

ɣɣran or ɣran themselves, doɣbrean to themselves.

The emphatic increase, when added to a possessive pronoun, is generally put to the noun that follows it, thus, mo lam ra my hand; but a hyphen should properly be used, thus, mo lam-ra. The increase to possessives is ra in the sing. and 2d person plural; re in the 1st, and ran in the 3d person plural.



**Fejn** is a word expressive of *self* or *own*, and is used with possessive pronouns in like manner, *e. g.* mo lam fejn, *mine own hand*.

řvm or řřvm occur in some manuscripts, subjoined in the emphatic form to ře.

Personal and possessive pronouns are often compounded with prepositions, so as to appear but one word. The learner should become well acquainted with these, as they are almost always used in combination and without any apostrophe, or other mark, to note their being so compounded.

The letters a, ĩ, ě, ě, or p, are often introduced to connect the words; the latter, however, only in the 3d person.

Three examples of this mode of combination will serve to illustrate these subjects here.

*Example—az with.*

|            |      |          |
|------------|------|----------|
| az—me..... | azam | with me. |
| — řv ..... | azad | — thee.  |
| — e .....  | azē  | — him.   |
| — ĩ .....  | azĭ  | — her.   |
| — řř ..... | azřř | — us.    |
| — řb ..... | azar | — ye.    |
| — a .....  | aca  | — them.  |

*řř through.*

|             |      |             |
|-------------|------|-------------|
| řř—me ..... | řřř  | through me. |
| — řv .....  | řřě  | — thee.     |
| — e .....   | řřb  | — him.      |
| — ĩ .....   | řřĭ  | — her.      |
| — řř .....  | řřř  | — us.       |
| — řb .....  | řřb  | — ye.       |
| — a .....   | řřřa | — them.     |

*do to.*

|            |     |               |
|------------|-----|---------------|
| do—mo..... | dom | to my.        |
| — do ..... | dob | — thy.        |
| — a .....  | da  | — his or her. |
| — ar ..... | dar | — our.        |
| — a .....  | da  | — their.      |

In possessive pronouns the third person singular, and second and third plural, do not unite with the preposition; and in the third persons singular and plural they require an *η* to be prefixed, thus—

*πο η'α*, under his, her, or their.

The emphatic increase of the personal compounds is, as in the case of the primitives, thus, *αζαμρα*, *with myself*; but the possessive compounds require that the increase should follow the noun with which they are connected, thus, *ηεμ λαμρα* *with mine own hand*.

The four other kinds of pronouns are indeclinable.

The relative pronouns are *α* *who, which, that, all that, whatever*; and *ηος, ηοα*, *who, which*: they are indeclinable.

The demonstrative pronouns are *το*, *this, these, here*; *τιν*, *that, those, there*; *του* and *υδ*, *that, those, there, or you*.

Interrogative pronouns are *τις*, *ce, ci*, *who, which*; *τις*, *τις*, *what*; *κα*, *what, where*.

These interrogatives combined with adverbs, make the following words which are in very common use—

|               |            |                                 |             |
|---------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| <i>κατοιν</i> | when,      | or <i>κα</i> , or <i>κατα</i> , | what time?  |
| <i>καυε</i>   | wherefore, | or <i>κα</i> <i>ζαδ</i> ,       | what cause? |
| <i>καατ</i>   | whence,    | or <i>κα</i> <i>ατ</i> ,        | what from?  |
| <i>κατε</i>   | when,      | or <i>κα</i> <i>ατε</i> ,       | what place? |
| <i>καυα</i>   | how long,  | or <i>κα</i> <i>ταδ</i> ,       | what long?  |
| <i>τιονατ</i> | how,       | or <i>κα</i> <i>ηοτ</i> ,       | what mode?  |
| <i>τιοναδ</i> | where,     | or <i>κα</i> <i>ιοναδ</i> ,     | what place? |
| <i>τιεαδ</i>  | what,      | or <i>κα</i> <i>ταοδ</i> ,      | what thing? |

O'Brien mentions *ζαδ*, *καδ*, *ζυδ*, *κα*, *ce*, *ζα*, and *ζε*, as interrogative adverbials that are indiscriminately used.

Indefinite pronouns are *αν τε*, *αν τι*, *he, or the person who, or that*; *κας*, *ζας*, *all, every*; *κυδ*, *ετιν*, *some*; *αλε*, *ελε*, *ολε*, *other*; *υλε*, *all*; *νεας*, *any one*; *ce be*, *τις be*, *ζις be*, *whosoever, whatsoever*, which are contractions of *τις* and *βας*, or *βυδ*, *was, or were*.

## Of VERBS and PARTICIPLES.

Verbs are of four kinds, Active, Passive, Impersonal and Neuter—the latter have no passive voice, the impersonals have a passive termination.

All regular verbs have 1. two voices, Active and Passive.

2. Six moods; Imperative, Indicative, Potential, Conditional, Consuetudinal, and Infinitive.

3. Three Tenses; Present, Past, and Future; these tenses have each of them a relative form, governed by a relative pronoun, expressed or understood.

4. Two Numbers; Singular and Plural.

5. Three Persons; and

6. Three Participles; Present, Past, and Future.

Mr. O'Reilly and others very properly make but one conjugation, for the final Vowel being broad or long makes no difference in regard to the general rules of inflection.

Verbs as well as Pronouns have an emphatic form, thus—*тајм*, *I am*, *тајмре*, *I myself am*.

The second person singular imperative mood is the root of the Verb; but it appears in dictionaries under the first person singular indicative mood, and present tense.

The Consuetudinal Mood is denied by some grammarians, but I adopt it on the authority of O'Reilly, Lynch, Halliday, and others; and it will be clear to any reader of Neilson, that he should have made it a mood, and not a tense, as he makes it to be sometimes past, sometimes future.

The inflections of Verbs are very much distinguished by initial changes, which appear in the example, and shall also be presented in one view hereafter.

The following general rules respecting final changes are borrowed from O'Brien.

1. No Verb can grammatically end in *m* or *l* in the plural, or *o* in the singular.

2. The first person singular indicative mood, pre-

sent tense, is always formed by adding  $\alpha\eta$  or  $\imath\eta$  to the root.

3. The letter  $\rho$  should never be omitted in the future tense of any verb, except the Auxiliary; thus,  $\mu\epsilon\alpha\lambda\lambda$ , *deceive thou*,  $\mu\epsilon\alpha\lambda\lambda\rho\alpha\delta$ , *I will deceive*. This letter is also always used in the potential and conditional moods.

4. Active Verbs in the consuetudinal mood, change the final  $\eta$  of the first person singular, indicative mood, present tense, into  $\bar{\eta}$ , if the pronoun accompany it; but that mood in passive verbs is formed by adding  $\rho$  to their participles.

5. When a relative is either written or understood, all the persons of the indicative present end in  $\alpha\rho$  or  $\epsilon\alpha\rho$ ; but the past tense ends like the root of the verb.

The preceding rules are such as are most generally acknowledged and important—the student will learn others best, from the example of a regularly conjugated verb.

It is to be observed, that grammarians give two conjugations of a regular verb, the antient and the modern—the first is more common in books, the latter in conversation; and it does appear to be a bending of the oral language to the necessity of assimilation with modern tongues, by the more frequent use of auxiliary verbs and separate particles, in order to express the various inflections. I conceive it to be necessary to exhibit them both; but it will in the first place be proper to present the conjugation of the auxiliary, *to be*, &c.

#### AUXILIARY VERB.

The several modifications of the verb *to be* are drawn from five sources— $\alpha\rho$  or  $\imath\rho$  *it is*;  $\tau\alpha$  *is*, *it is*;  $\rho\upsilon\imath$  *is*, *it is*,  $\rho\alpha\imath\delta$  *was*; and  $b\imath$  or  $b\imath\delta$  *it is*.

1.  $\alpha\rho$  or  $\imath\rho$  is only used in two tenses of the indicative mood, as  $\imath\rho$   $\mu\epsilon$  *I am*, or *it is I*;  $\imath\rho$   $\tau\upsilon$ , &c. and  $b\alpha$  or  $b\upsilon\delta$   $\mu\epsilon$  *I was*, or *it was I*; and so on with the pronouns of the several persons.

This auxiliary is frequently used with a repetition of itself, or of *ta*, thus, *ir é ir laibir it is he that is strong*; *ir me ta laibir it is I that am strong*. The English learner will here recognise a common Hibernicism, which is a literal translation of the Irish idiom. It is always used in assertion.

2. *Ta* is used only in the present indicative, and as a positive affirmative, instead of the present indicative of *bi*; *a* is very frequently, but improperly, affixed to it, as *ataim I am*.

Indicative present—modern mode.

*ta me*, or *ata me I am*; and so with the several personal pronouns.

Antient mode.

| <i>Sing.</i>                                       | <i>Plur.</i>   |
|--|--|
| <i>taim</i> , or <i>ataim</i> .                    | <i>taimur</i> , <i>taimaoib</i> , or <i>ata-</i><br><i>mur</i> , &c.         |
| <i>tair</i> , <i>taoir</i> , or <i>atair</i> , &c. | <i>taibur</i> , <i>taetai</i> , <i>taetaoir</i> , or<br><i>ataibur</i> , &c. |
| <i>ta</i> , or <i>ata</i> .                        | <i>taib</i> , or <i>ataib</i> .  |

3. *bfaíl*, or *faíl*, *is, it is*.

Modern mode.

*bfaílm*, or *faílm*, and *bfaíl*, or *faíl me I am*; *bfaíl*, or *faíl tu thou art*; and so through the several persons.

Antient mode.

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <i>bfaílm</i> , <i>I am</i> . | <i>bfaílmur</i> , or <i>bfaílmib</i> . |
| <i>bfaílr</i> .               | <i>bfaílbur</i> , or <i>bfaíléib</i> . |
| <i>bfaíl re</i> .             | <i>bfaílb</i> .                        |

Also, *faílm*, *faílr tu*, &c.

Negative present, (from *O'Reilly and Neilson*)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>ni bfaílm</i> , <i>niel me</i> , or <i>ni'l me I am not</i> . | <i>ni bfaílmib</i> , <i>bfaíl ríð</i> , <i>niel-</i><br><i>mib</i> , or <i>ni'lmib</i> . |
| <i>ni bfaílr</i> , <i>niel</i> , or <i>ni'l tu</i> .             | <i>ni bfaíleir</i> , <i>bfaíl ríð</i> , <i>niel</i> ,<br>or <i>ni'l ríð</i> .            |
| <i>ni bfaíl re</i> , <i>niel</i> , or <i>ni'l re</i> .           | <i>ni bfaíl</i> , <i>niel</i> , or <i>ni'l ríð</i> .                                     |

Interrogative, of which *a* or *an* prefixed is the sign.

*Sing.*

*Plur.*

*a* or *an* Եբայլիմ, or Եբայլ  
me, am I?

Եբայլիւ, or Եբայլ Էս?  
Եբայլ թե?

Եբայլիմաօյծ, Եբայլեամ, or  
Եբայլ ըն?

Եբայլ ընք?

Եբայլիծ, or Եբայլ ըլած?

4. լաթ *was*, of which there is but one tense, to wit, the past. Mr. O'Reilly says, that it is a contraction from ոս Ել.

Modern mode.

լաթ մե *I was*, or *was I?* and so through the persons.

լաթար *I was*.

լաթեար.

լաթ.

լաթարար.

լաթաթար.

լաթաթար.

5. Ել or Ելծ *it is*.

Ել, Ելծ *be thou*.

Ելած, or Ելծ թե.

Ելօծ ըն, Ելծը, Ելօծիմաօյծ.

Ելօծ ընք, Ելծիծ,

Ելօծ իւծ, Ելծ, Ելծը, Ելծիծ.

Indicative—Present Tense.

Ելծիմ *I be*, or *exist*.

Ելծի շու, Ելծի.

Ելծի թե.

Ելծի ըն, Ելծիար, Ելծի-  
մաօյծ.

Ելծի ընք, Ելծծն.

Ելծի ըլած, Ելծիծ.

Past Tense.

This tense always requires the aspiration of the initial, if a mutable consonant.

Ել, Եա, Ելծ մե, or Ելծը,  
Եաթար, Ելօր.

Ել, Եա, Ելծ շու, or Ելծի,  
Եաթար.

Ել, Եա, or Ելծ թե.

Ել, or Եա ըն, Ելօար, Եա-  
թար.

Ել, or Եա ընք, Ելօար, Եա-  
թար.

Ել, or Եա իւծ, Ելօծ, Եած.

## Future.

| <i>Sing.</i>        | <i>Plur.</i>                |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| բելծ մե, բելծ, ԲԼԺ. | բելծ քո, բելծմար, բելծմիծ,  |
| բելծ Էս, բելծիք.    | բելմ, ԲԼԺՄԱՕԻԺ.             |
| բելծ, ըօ բելծ քե.   | բելծ քե, բելծծար, ԲԼԺԺԱԻԺ.  |
|                     | բելծ բլած, բելծիծ, ԲԼԺԺԱԻԺ. |

Relative ԲԼԺԻ or Իք մե ԲԼԺԻ.

Potential mood—this mood always requires the aspiration of the initial.

|                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Բելծիք, or Բելծիքի <i>I would</i> | բելծ քո, Բելծմար.  |
| <i>be.</i>                        | բելծ քե.           |
| Բելծեաձ.                          | բելծ քած, Բելծծիք. |
| Բելծ քե.                          |                    |

## \*Conditional mood—Present Tense.

|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ՄԱ ԲԻՄ, ԲԻԺԻ, or ԲԻԺԻ մե | ՄԱ ԲԻՄ, ԲԻՄԱՕԻԺ, or ԲԻԺԻ |
| <i>if I be.</i>          | քո.                      |
| ՄԱ ԲԻԺԻ, or ԲԻԺԻ Էս.     | ՄԱ ԲԻԺԻ քե.              |
| ՄԱ ԲԻՕ, or ԲԻԺԻ քե.      | ՄԱ ԲԻԺԻ քած.             |

## Past Tense.

|                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| ՃԱ ՄԲԵԻԺԻ, or ՄԲԵԻԺ մե  | ՃԱ ՄԲԵԻԺՄԱՕԻԻ, or ՄԲԵԻԺ    |
| <i>if I were.</i>       | քո.                        |
| ՃՕ ՄԲԵԻԺԶ, or ՄԲԵԻԺ ԵՐ. | ՃՕ ՄԲԵԻԺԷ, or ՄԲԵԻԺ քե.    |
| ՃԱ ՄԲԵԻԺ, or ՄԲԵԻԺ քե.  | ՃԱ ՄԲԵԻԺծիք, or ՄԲԵԻԺ քած. |

## Future Tense.

|                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ՄԱ ԲԻՄ <i>if I shall be,</i> | ՄԱ ԲԻՄԱՕԻԺ, or ԲԻՕի բլի. |
| ՄԱ ԲԻՕ Էս.                   | ՄԱ ԲԻՕ քե.               |
| ՄԱ ԲԻՕ քե.                   | ՄԱ ԲԻՕ բլած.             |

## Consuetudinal mood—Present Tense.

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| ԲԻՄ, ԲԵԻԺԻ, or ԲԻԺԻ մե    | ԲԻՄԱՕԻԺ, ԲԼԺ քո, or ԲԻԺքո. |
| <i>I am usually.</i>      | ԲԻԷԺ, or ԲԼԺ քե.           |
| ԲԻԺԻ, ԲԼԺ ԵՐ, or ԲԻԺԷ ԵՐ. | ԲԻԺ, ԲԻ, or ԲԼԺ բլած.      |
| ԲԻ, ԲԼԺ քե, or ԲԵԺԷ քե,   |                            |
| or ԲԻՐ. ( <i>Lynch.</i> ) |                            |

Relative Բելծար, ԲԻք, Բելծար *that usually is.*

Interrogative, Էր մԲելծար ?

\* As it is impossible to reconcile the grammarians in the detail of this mood, I shall copy Mr. O'Reilly.

## Past Tense.

do bĩṇ *I was usually.*

do bĩčā.

do bĩḁeāḁ,

do bĩmĩr, or bĩmāoĩr.

de bĩčĩḁ.

do bĩḁĩr.

## No future.

## Infinitive mood and participles.

do, or a beĩč *to be.*

beĩč *being.*

ĩān mbeĩč *having been.*

ān tĩ beĩč *about to be.*

The interrogative is ān, and it is often used without the verb, the latter being understood, as ān me? *is it I?* ān tu? *is it thou?* &c. This interrogative particle, used before consonants which can be eclipsed, causes eclipse, and then the ń is generally omitted, as a mbeĩḁĩn tu? *do you be?* and often the particle is dropped thus—mbeĩḁĩn tu?

The negatives of this verb are ńā in the imperative, and ńĩ in the other moods.

Note, that the tenses of the potential mood may be formed, by prefixing ār or ĩr for the present, bā for the past, and buḁ for the future tense, to such words as cōĩn *right*, eĩḁĩn *necessity*, ńeĩḁĩn *power*, &c.; followed by the pronoun, which is properly the nominative to the verb, and the verb itself in the infinitive mood; thus—bā cōĩn ḁān (or do me,) a beĩč *I should have been*; literally, *it is right for me to have been or be.* They are also formed by placing tĩḁĩm *I come or agree*, used impersonally; or cāĩčĩḁ *must*, or *it obliges*, in like manner before the pronoun and verb, thus—ńĩ cĩḁ ĩom, (or le me,) a beĩḁ *I cannot be.* This idiomatic form of expression is very common, and must be carefully recollected and applied.

## VERBS ARE REGULAR AND IRREGULAR.

The following example of the conjugation of a regular verb is taken from O'Brien, corrected by O'Reilly, and approved by Scurry, &c. It will be unnecessary to exhibit the English, except in the manner already adopted.



*meall deceive*—active voice.

Imperative Mood—Modern mode.

*Sing.*

*Plur.*

*meall deceive thou.*

*meallað þe let him deceive.*

*meallað þið.*

*meallað þið.*

*meallað þið.*

Antient mode.

*meall.*

*meallað.*

*meallam, meallamaoþ,\**

*meallamaþr.*

*meallaþe.*

*meallaþið, meallaþið.*

Indicative Present Tense—Modern mode.

*meallaþm I deceive, meallaþ þu, &c.*

Antient mode.

*meallaþm.*

*meallaþr.*

*meallaþre,*

*meallamaþr, meallamaoþ.*

*meallaþar, meallaþar.*

*meallaþ.*

Past Tense—Modern mode.

In this tense, and in the potential mood, the particle *þo* is generally expressed before the verb; and always so if the initial letter be *þ*, or a vowel.

*meall me I deceived, meall þu, &c.*

Antient mode.

*meallaþr.*

*meallaþr.*

*meall.*

*meallamaþr, meallam.*

*meallaþar.*

*meallaþar, meallaþ.*

Future Tense—Modern mode.

*meallaþað me I will deceive, meallaþað þu, &c.*

Antient mode.

*meallaþað.*

*meallaþar.*

*meallaþað.*

*meallaþam, meallaþamar,*

*meallaþamaoþ.*

*meallaþar, meallaþaðe.*

*meallaþað.*

\* This termination would be thus in *ceþl conceal, ceþlmþ*—because that the last vowel in the root of the verb is slender; so in some other inflections; but I do not consider it necessary to notice them further than by this general remark.

## Potential Mood—Modern mode.

meallfaſh *I would deceive*, meallfað tu, &c.

## Antient mode.

meallfaſh.

meallfað.

meallfað re.

meallfaðmaoſſr.

meallfaſðe.

meallfaſðſſr.

Conditional Mood; eclipse the initial letter, if it be one capable of it.

ðā meallfaſh *if I would deceive*, &c. as in the Potential Mood.

## Consuetudinal Mood—Present Tense.

Same in both modes.

męllaſm, or męllaſh me *I usually deceive*, męllaſh tu, &c.

## Past Tense.

meallaſh *I used to deceive*.

meallta.

meallað.

meallamaoſſr.

meallaſðe.

mealladaoſſr.

## Infinitive Mood and Participles.

The same in modern and antient modes.

ðo, or a meallað *to deceive*.

*Present.* aſ meallað *deceiving*.

*Past.* ɿaſ meallað *having deceived*.

*Future.* aſ tɿ meallað *about to deceive*.

The initials of the infinitive mood and the past participles are always aspirated; but the latter may also be eclipsed, instead of aspirated.

The relatives are meallaſ *that deceives*; meall *that deceived*; meallfaſ *that will deceive*; meallað *that used to deceive*. (See General Rule 5.)

## Passive Voice.

This voice is conjugated in the modern mode, by prefixing the auxiliary verb to the participle, thus—bɿð me meallta *I am deceived*; and so throughout. It is therefore expédient to confine the conjugation here to the antient mode.

## Imperative Mood.

mealltaſ *be deceived*.

mealltaſ me *let me be deceived*, mealltaſ tu, and so through the persons.

## Indicative Present Tense.

| <i>Sing.</i>  | <i>Plur.</i>  |
|---|---|
| caim meſſta, meſſtar me<br><i>I am deceived.</i>    | camar meallta, mealltar<br>iw.                              |
| car meſſta, meſſtar iu.<br>ca re meſſta, meſſtar e. | tabar meſſta, meſſtar iw.<br>caiw meallta, mealltar<br>iaw. |

## Past Tense.

meallað me *I was deceived, &c.*

## Future Tense.

meallfaðar or meallfar me *I will be deceived, &c.*

## Potential Mood.

meallfaðe me *I would be deceived, &c.*

## Conditional Mood.

ða meallfaðe me *if I would be deceived. &c.*

## Consuetudinal Mood—Present Tense.

mealltar me *I am usually deceived*—and so through the persons.

## Past Tense.

mealltaoðe me *I used to be deceived, &c.*

## Infinitive Mood and Participles.

ðo or a beſt meallta *to be deceived.*

*Present.* meallta *deceived.*

*Past.* iar ſa beſt meallta *having been deceived.*

*Future.* ar ti beſt meallta *about to be deceived.*

The negative and interrogative particles are the same in both voices. The negative particle of the present and future tenses indicative is *ſi*, and of the past tense, *ſir*, *ſiar*, or *ſior*; in the imperative mood it is *ſa*. The interrogative of the indicative present and future is *a*, *an*, or *naç*; and of the past tense *ar*, *naçar*, or *nar*. The influences of these particles on aspiration shall be noticed hereafter.

The following particles are signs of the potential mood—*ծա*, *մա* *if*, *չօ* *until*, *միտ* *unless*. *Յօ* and *չիտ*, followed by *ես* or *քա*, form the optative sign; as *չօ*, or *չիտ քա*, or *եթ*, *ցալեա եթիտ* *may you be deceived*.

Affirmative particles are *մար* *as*; *չիտ*, *չօ*, *եօ* *that*; *ա* *who*—*եօ* and *ա* are also signs of the infinitive mood.

Impersonal verbs have passive terminations in the several moods and tenses, thus—

### Imperative Mood.

*լածժար*, *let it be reported*.

*Indic. Pres.* *լածժար* *it is reported*.

*Past.* *լածած* *it was reported*.

*Fut.* *լածբար* *it will be reported*.

### Potential Mood.

*լածբալե* *it would be reported*.

### Consuetudinal Mood.

*լածժաօլծ* *it is usually reported*.

I shall present here an abstract of the conjugation of a reflected verb from Neilson, as it exhibits much of the peculiar idiom of the language—it partakes of the character of neuter, and is incapable of being inflected in the passive voice.

*ածալ* *sleep*.

### Imperative Mood.

*Sing.*

*Plur.*

|                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>ածալ, ել եօ ծոված</i> <i>sleep</i> | <i>ածալաօլծ, ելիտ յա</i>     |
| <i>thou.</i>                          | <i>չոված.</i>                |
| <i>ածալե, ել քա ծոված</i>             | <i>ածալե, ել ինքն յով-</i>   |
| <i>let him sleep.</i>                 | <i>ած.</i>                   |
|                                       | <i>ոված ինքն, ել ինքն յա</i> |
|                                       | <i>չոված.</i>                |

The Infinitive Mood and participles are not peculiar.

## Indicative Mood—Present Tense.

1. *Sing.* coblaím, ta me mo cōblað *I sleep.*
2. — coblaíḡ tu, ta tu do cōblað.
3. — coblaíḡ re, ta re (or ḡ) na cōblað.
1. *Plur.* coblamaoib, tamaoib ḡar ḡcoblað.
2. — coblaíḡ ḡb, ta ḡb buir ḡcoblað.
3. — coblaíḡ ḡad, ta ḡad na ḡcoblað.

In a similar manner are the past and future tenses of this mood, and the other moods, &c. conjugated; combining the proper mood and tense of the auxiliary verb, and the proper pronoun, with the infinitive mood, to express each mood, tense, and person of the reflected verb.

## IRREGULAR VERBS.

The irregular verbs form the principal difficulty in the Irish language. It might naturally be expected that this tongue should have suffered much from license in its general use: it has been now, for centuries, the medium of intercourse among the most illiterate people of the country, people living in places the most remote from each other; and has not had the advantages of a college, a theatre, a court, or a capital—not even those of an acknowledged grammar, or until lately, a dictionary—where its standard might be supposed to be found. It is therefore more surprising that there should be so little contradiction between its several dialects, or of wild offspring from its genuine but uncultivated roots, than that there should be a difficulty in subjecting it to the rules of grammar. In treating of these verbs I shall not exhibit all their inflections, but merely present, from the best authorities, such parts of them as are most irregular; leaving the thorough understanding of them to be acquired by that which alone can teach them well—PRACTICE.

1. —*dean do, or make.*

## Indicative Mood—Past Tense.

| <i>Sing.</i>             |          | <i>Plur.</i> |            |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------|------------|
| Mod. mode.               | Antient. | Mod. mode.   | Antient.   |
| մի՞ն մե <i>I did do.</i> | մի՞նեայ. | մի՞ն հի.     | մի՞նեամար. |
| մի՞ն էս.                 | մի՞նիր.  | մի՞ն հծ.     | մի՞նեածար. |
| մի՞ն րե.                 | մի՞նրե.  | մի՞ն հած.    | մի՞նեածար. |

This Tense is also thus—

do ծելո մե, or do ծեադար, *I did do, &c.*

## Passive Voice—Imperative Mood.

## Modern mode.

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| բլծ մէլծ <i>be thou done.</i> | բլծ հի մէլծ.  |
| բլծ րե մէլծ.                  | բլծ հծ մէլծ.  |
|                               | բլծ հած մէլծ. |

Also, բլծ ծեադա and ծեադար էս *be thou done, &c.*

## Infinitive Mood and Participle.

do or a ծելծ ծեադա or մէլծ *to be done.*

ծեադա, or մէլծ *done, or made.*

## Indicative Mood—Present Tense.

Is conjugated with either ծեադա, or մէլծ—as էս մե or էսիմ ծեադա, or մէլծ *I am done, &c.*

## Past Tense.

մի՞նեած մե *I was done, &c.* Also, ի մե ծեադա, &c.

## Conditional Mood.

ծա մեծիծի ծեադա, or մէլծ—and so through the several persons.

2.—*շոյծիմ or շոյմ I do or make.*

## Indicative Mood—Present Tense.

|                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| շոյծիմ, or շոյմ.    | շոյծ հի, շոյծիմ, or շոյծ- |
| շոյծ էս, or շոյծիր. | մար.                      |
| շոյծ րե.            | շոյծ հծ, շոյծիծ, or շոյծ- |
|                     | ծար.                      |
|                     | շոյծ հած, շոյծիծ.         |

All the other inflections of this, are expressed by the preceding verb, except the subjunctive, which is also մա դիմ *if I do, &c.*

3.—**սֵս** *say*.**Active Voice—Imperative Mood.****սֵս** *say thou* ; **սֵսի՛ր** *re, &c.***Infinitive Mood and Participles.****սֵս** *or* **սֵսի** *to say.***Present.** **սֵսի** *saying.***Past.** **սֵսի** *having said,***Future.** **սֵսի** *about to say.***Indicative Mood—Present Tense—Modern mode.****սֵսիմ** *I say, սֵսի* *tu, re, &c.***Antient mode.****սֵսիմ** *I say.***սֵսիր.****սֵսի** *re.***սֵսի՛ր, սֵսեալ.****սֵսի՛ր, սֵսեալ.****սֵսի.****Past Tense—modern mode.****սֵսի** *me, tu, &c.***Antient mode.****սֵսի** *I said.***սֵսիր.****սֵսի** *re.***սֵսիալ.****սֵսիալ.****սֵսիալ.****Future Tense—Modern mode.****սֵսի** *me, tu, &c.***Antient mode.****սֵսի** *I will say.***սֵսիր.****սֵսի** *re.***սֵսիալ.****սֵսիալ.****սֵսիալ.**

**ս** is often prefixed to the present and past tenses of this mood, as **սֵսիմ** *I say*, **սֵսի** *I said*.

**Potential mood, սֵսի, &c.** **Conditional mood, սֵսի** *re, &c.* **Consuetudinal mood, սֵսի, սֵսի** *me, &c.* as in **սֵսի**.

**Passive Voice—Imperative Mood.****սֵսի** *let it be said.***Participle—սֵսի** *was said.*

## Indicative Mood.

*Present.* ծելրեար *it is said.**Past.* ծսրած *it was said.**Future.* ծարբար *it shall be said.*Consuetudinal Mood—ծելրէլ *used to be said.*

## Relatives in this verb.

*Present tense.* և ծելր *that says.**Past.* և ծսծալր *that said,**Future.* և ծարբար *that will say.*

## Interrogatives—Present Tense.

ան աբրալմ *do I say?*

ան ծսծառար?

ան ածալր Ես?

ան ծելր ի՞նչ?

ան ածալր թե?

ան ծելլի՞ծ?

So with the negative ոչ.

Past and future tenses as in the affirmative.

4.—Ելլիմ *I come.*

## Imperative Mood.

Եար *come thou.*

Եալած թե, Եարած, Ելեաճ.

Եալած ի՞նչ, Ելեառաօլծ,  
Եառառաօլր.

Եալած ի՞նչ, Ելլիճե.

Եալած ի՞նչ, Ելլիժիլ, Ե-  
լլիժիլ.

## Infinitive Mood and Participles.

ծօ օր և Եաճ *to come.**Present.* ևլ Եաճ *coming.**Past.* լար Եաճ *having come.**Future.* ար և Եաճ *about to come.*

## Indicative Mood—Past Tense—Modern mode.

Եալիլ մե *I came, &c.*

## Antient mode.

Եալիլեար.

Եալիլիլ, Եալիլիլ.

Եալիլիլ թե.

Եալիլար, Եալիլար.

Եալիլար.

Եալիլար, Եալիլար.



## Future Tense—Modern mode.

չյօժած մե *I will come*, շյօժած ռս, &c.

## Antient mode.

*Sing.*

չյօժած.  
չյօժայր.  
չյօժած թե.

*Plur.*

չյօժաժաօյծ, շյօժաժար.  
չյօժածծար, շյօժաօյծե.  
չյօժայծ.

## Relatives.

*Present tense.* շյՅար *that cometh.*

*Past.* և շայրյ շ *that came.*

*Future.* շյօժար *that will come.*

Potential Mood—չյօժայր, &c.

Conditional Mood—ծա ծչյօժայր, &c.

5.—շե or շեյծ *go*.

## Imperative Mood.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>շեյծ, յմէյճ <i>go thou</i>.<br/>շեաճած թե, յմէյճեաճ թե,<br/>շեյծ թե.</p> | <p>շեճած, or յմէյճ ր, շեճա-<br/>ժաօյր, շեյծմյծ, շեյծմյր,<br/>յմէյճմյծ, յմծյճմյր.<br/>շեաճայծ, or յմէյճ րծ, յմ-<br/>էյճե.<br/>շեաճած or յմէյճ րած, շեա-<br/>ճայծյր, յմէյճյծ.</p> |
|---|---|

## Infinitive Mood and Participles.

ծօ, or և ծսլ, or ծ'յմեաճտ *to go*.

*Present.* ևճ ծսլ, or ևճ յմեաճտ *going*.

*Past.* յար ղսլ *gone*.

*Future.* ար շյ ծսլ *about to go*.

## Indicative Mood—Past Tense—Modern mode.

շսյծ մե *I went*, շսյծ ռս, &c.

## Antient mode.

շսճար *I went*.  
շսճայր.  
շսյծ թե.

շսժար.  
շսճար.  
շսճար, ևճ րաճճար.

## Future Tense—Modern mode.

րաճբած *me I will go*, րաճբած *tu*, &c.

## Antient mode.

|             |                     |                   |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| րաճբած.     | րաճբաղաօլծ, րաճբաղ. |                   |
| րաճբալր.    |                     | րաճբածար, րաճալծ. |
| րաճբալծ րե. |                     | րաճբալծ.          |

## Potential Mood—րաճբալի, &amp;c.

## Conditional Mood—ծա րաճբալի, &amp;c.

## Consuetudinal Mood—Present Tense.

րաճալի or լելծլի ; րաճալի, or լելծլի, *me, tu I usually go*, &c.

## Past Tense.

ծօ րաճալի, or ծօ լելծլի *I used to go*, &c.

Relative—էրթեած *that used to go*.

The following inflections of this verb are added from Neilson.

Past tense—Negative—ի ծեւճար, or ի ծեւճա *me I did not go* ; and interrogative of the same tense, *ա յծեւճար did I go* ?

6.—ւլլի *I see*.

## Imperative Mood—Modern mode.

լելծ *see thou*, լելծ րե, &c. spelt also լեւճ and լեւճ, &c.

## Antient mode.

|                        |                         |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| լելծ <i>see thou</i> . | լելճաղաօլր, լելճաղաօլծ. |                   |
| լելծ րե.               |                         | լելճլծ.           |
|                        |                         | լելճլծլր, լելճլծ. |

## Infinitive Mood and Participles.

լալիցի *to see*.

Indicative Mood—Present Tense. *ւլլի I see*, &c.

Interrogative. *ա իլալիցի, իլալիցալի tu do I see*, &c.

## Past Tense—Modern mode.

ժողարուց մե *I saw*, ժողարուց Ես, &c.

## Antient mode.

ժողարուց *I saw*.

ժողարուցիր.

ժողարուցրե.

ժողարուցար.

ժողարուցար.

ժողարուցար.

Interrogative—ա երբար, or երբա Ես *did I see*, &c.

Present Interrogative—ա երբար Ես *do I see*?

Future Interrogative—ա երբար, *shall I see*?

## Consuetudinal Mood.

բերում or ընծում *I usually see*, բերիր, or բերեալ Ես ;  
or ընծիր, or ընծեալ Ես, &c.

## Passive Voice—Imperative Mood.

բերեալ, or ընծեալ Ես *be thou seen*, &c.

## Indicative Mood—Present Tense.

ընծեալ մե, բերեալ մե *I am seen*, &c.

## Past Tense.

ժողարած or ժողած մե *I was seen*, &c.

## Potential Mood.

բերիցի մե *I would be seen*, &c.

## Conditional Mood.

Ես երբարիցի մե *if I would be seen*, &c.

## Consuetudinal Mood.

բերցի or ընծի *used to be seen*.

Neilson makes the negatives indic. to be *ի բերում I do not see*, *ի բերում I did not see*, and *ի ընծեալ I shall not see*. He makes also բերար, &c. to be the past, and բերեալ the future tenses of the indicative passive voice. In his subjunctive mood likewise he conjugates the two verbs together, thus—*մա ընծեալ, or բերեալ if I be seen*.

7.—*cluṙṇ hear. Active Voice.*

*Infinitive Mood and Participles.*

*do, or a cluṙṇṇ, or clor to hear.*

*Present.* աս cluṙṇṇ, clor.

*Past.* յար չcluṙṇṇ, չclor.

*Future.* ար էլ cluṙṇṇ, clor.

*Indicative Mood—Past Tense—Modern mode*  
*čualajō me I heard, &c.*

*Antient mode.*

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| čualar.     | čualamar. |
| čualar.     | čualabar. |
| čualajō re. | čualadar. |

*Future Tense—Modern mode.*

*cluṙṇṇeadō me I will hear, &c.*

*Antient mode.*

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| clṙṇṇeadō.    | clṙṇṇeamar. |
| clṙṇṇṙ.       | clṙṇṇebar.  |
| clṙṇṇeadō re. | clṙṇṇṙdō.   |

*Also clorṇṇeadō, &c. (O'Reilly.)*

*Passive Voice—Infinitive Mood.*

*do, or a beṙṇ clṙṇṇe.*

*Indicative Mood—Past Tense.*

*čualad or clṙṇṇeadō me I was heard, &c.*

*Also čualar. (Neilson.)*

*Future Tense.*

*clṙṇṇear me I will be heard, &c.*

*Consuetudinal Mood.*

*clṙṇṇṙdō me I used to be heard, &c.*

8.—*beṙṇ take, bear, carry, bring forth.*

*Infinitive Mood.*

*do, or a bṙeṙṇ to take.*

Participles. 43 Ելից, &c.

Indicative Mood—Past Tense—Modern mode.  
 Ելից մե *I took*, Ելից Ես, &c.

Antient mode.

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Ելիցար.  | Ելիցաժար. |
| Ելիցալի. | Ելիցաճար. |
| Ելից րե. | Ելիցաճար. |

Passive Voice—Indicative Mood—Past Tense.  
 Ելիցած մե, *I was taken*, &c.

9.—Ելիլից *I give*.

Active Voice—Imperative Mood—Modern mode.  
 Ելիլի, or Ելից *give thou*; Ելիլիս, or Ելից րե, &c.

Antient mode.

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Ելիլի <i>give thou</i> . | Ելիլիս, or Ելից րե. |
| Ելիլիս, or Ելից րե.      | Ելիլիս, Ելից րե.    |

Infinitive Mood and Participles.

Ելիլի, or Ելիլից *to give*, 43 Ելիլից *giving*, &c.

Indicative Mood—Past Tense—Modern mode.  
 Ելից մե *I gave*, &c.

Antient mode.

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Ելիցար.  | Ելիցաժար. |
| Ելիցալի. | Ելիցաճար. |
| Ելից րե. | Ելիցաճար. |

The Potential Mood is regular, but the Conditional is thus—Modern mode.

Ելիլիլի, or Ելիլիլից *if I would give* Ելիլիլի, or Ելիլիլից Ես, &c.

Antient mode.

|                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Ելիլիլի.       | Ելիլիլիս.              |
| Ելիլիլիս.      | Ելիլիլիս, Ելիլիլից Ես. |
| Ելիլիլիլից Ես. | Ելիլիլիլից Ես.         |

Or by Ելիլիլիլի, &c.

## Consuetudinal Mood.

բայրի, շնորհ, շնորհակց, որ տաճարի մե, *I usually gave.*

## Passive Voice—Imperative Mood.

բայրեալ որ տաճար տա *be thou given, &c.*

## Infinitive Mood.

տա, որ ա ինչ տաճար *to be given.*

## Indicative Mood—Present Tense.

բայրեալ մե, որ տաճար մե *I am given, &c.*

## Past Tense.

տաճած մե *I was given, &c.*

## Future Tense.

բայրար մե, որ տաճարար մե *I shall be given, &c.*

## Consuetudinal Mood.

բայրեծ, տաճալծ, որ տաճարեալծ *used to be given.*

10.—Բռն *find or get.*

## Active Voice—Infinitive Mood and Participles.

ծ'բռնալ *to find*, և ի բռնալ, &c.

## Indicative Mood—Past Tense—Modern mode.

բռնալ մե *I found, &c.*

## Antient mode.

բռնար.  
բռնար.  
բռնալ թ.

բռնարար.  
բռնարար.  
բռնարար.

## Future Tense—modern mode.

բռնարալծ մե, որ բռնարալծ մե *I will find, &c.*

## Antient mode.

բռնարալծ *I will or shall find.*  
բռնարալ.  
բռնարալծ թ.

բռնարար.  
բռնարալծ թ.  
բռնարալծ.

որ բռնարալ, բռնարալ, &c. similarly conjugated.

Negative, *նի թագալմ, or թագա մե I will not find.*

Potential Mood.

*չեմբրալն I would find.*

*չեմբրած.*

*չեմբրած րե.*

*չեմբրած քո, չեմբրամաօլր.*

*չեմբրած բն.*

*չեմբրած քած, չեմբրալծաօլր.*

*or թագալն, similarly conjugated.*

Conditional mood.

*ծա երաչբրալն if I would find, &c.*

Consuetudinal mood.

*չեյնիմ մե I use to find, &c.*

Passive Voice—Indicative Mood—Present Tense.

*բաշտար, or բրլեար մե I am found, &c.*

Past Tense.

*բրլծ, բրլեած, or բարած մե I was found, &c.*

Future Tense.

*չեմբրար մե, or բալշբար մե I will be found, &c.*

Potential Mood.

*չեմբրալծ մե, or բալշբլծե մե I would be found, &c.*

Conditional Mood.

*ծա չեմբրալծե if I would be found, &c.*

Consuetudinal Mood.

*բաշտալծ, բալշտեծ, or չեմբտալծ used to be found.*

11.—*նլչ reach, or arrive at.*

Infinitive mood and participles.

*ծօ or Վ ուծտալն, or նլածտալն to reach, &c.*

*Վշ ուծտալն, or նլածտալն reaching.*

Indicative Mood—Past Tense—Modern mode.

*նլաւ, or նալնլւ մե I reached, &c.*

Antient mode.

*նլածտար, ընշար.*

*նլածտալր, ընշալր.*

*նլաւ, նալնլւ.*

*նլածտար, ընշար.*

*նլածտար, ընշար.*

*նլածտար, ընշար.*

*նաւատար.*

## Future Tense—Modern mode.

ἡ ἀέττα ἰδ, ἡ ἰδῆ με *I will reach, &c.*

## Antient mode.

ἡ ἀέττα, ἡ ἰδῆ.

ἡ ἰδῆ.

ἡ ἰδῆ.

ἡ ἰδῆ ἰδῆ.

ἡ ἰδῆ ἰδῆ.

ἡ ἰδῆ.

## Consuetudinal Mood.

ἡ ἀέττα ἰδ, ἡ ἰδῆ *I used to reach, &c.*

## ADVERBS.

Adverbs express circumstances of quality, manner, time, place, &c. in nouns and verbs; and a noun substantive or adjective becomes an adverb, by prefixing *αἰ* to the former, or *ῥο* to the latter; thus, *αἰ* *ccvl* *back.* or *away*; *ῥο* *holc* *badly.*

Although a list of Adverbs belongs more properly to a Dictionary, it will not be amiss to mention some of the most common here.

*α* *βραδ* *far off.*

*α* *βροαἰ* *in presence of.*

*α* *βρογυρ* *near.*

*α* *βρογ* *on this side.*

*α* *κοῖδε* *ever.*

*α* *ῥομῆ* *opposite.*

*αἰ* *ce* *near.*

*αἰ* *αῖα* *opposite.*

*αἰ* *ραδ* *along.*

*αἰ* *ρεαδ* *throughout.*

*αἰ* *ρεαδ* *amongst.*

*αἰ* *ῥεαδ* *backwards.*

*αἰ* *λεῖ* *by turns.*

*αἰ*, & *αἰ* *αἰ* *afterwards,*  
*backwards.*

*αἰ* *αἰ* *sometimes.*

*αἰ* *αἰ* *out, without.*

*αἰ* *αἰ* *like, as.*

*αἰ* *αἰ* *only, except, alone.*

*αἰ* *αἰ* *to-morrow.*

*αἰ* *αἰ* *so, equal.*

*α* *μεαῖ* *amidst.*

*α* *ναλ* [*αἰ* *call*] *hither,*  
*over.*

*α* *ναλλοδ* *formerly.*

*α* *ηε*, *α* *ηδε* *yesterday.*

*α* *ηε* *ηεαεε*, *α* *ηαον* *together.*

*α* *ηα* *close to.*

*α* *ηα* *westwardly.*



ahoſſi *easterly.*  
 a, or uað hðear *southerly.*  
 a, or uað tũaið *northerly.*  
 ahiuð *to-day.*  
 ahoct *to-night.*  
 ahoſor *from below.*  
 ahuar *from above.*  
 aḥað *seldom.*  
 ahoſſi *now.*  
 a hoñ 7 a ḥall *to and fro.*  
 ahtan *when.*  
 a hun *thither.*  
 aheiðſſi or aeiſſi *last night.*  
 ariam, riām *ever.*  
 ariſſi *again.*  
 aſſi teac, aſſi tið *within.*  
 a ttoſac *at first.*  
 beð ḥac *almost.*  
 buſ or ciſon *topsy turvey.*  
 ceana *already, however.*  
 cum *in order to.*  
 deſſi *after.*  
 do tũað *northwards.*  
 do ðear *southwards.*  
 do ðḥac *usually.*  
 eaðon, *namely, viz.*  
 fa *towards.*  
 fa cúl *backwards.*  
 fa ðeoſið, fa ðeiſſeað *last-ly, at length.*  
 fa ðð *twice.*  
 fa leat, fa ſeac *apart, successively.*  
 ſearða *henceforth.*  
 ſoſ *yet moreover.*  
 ʒe ʒuſ *although.*  
 ʒiðeað *nevertheless.*  
 ʒe, ʒo ðci, ʒo huſʒe *until.*  
 ʒo aſſið *at least.*

ʒo ſðil *yet hereafter.*  
 ʒo mðriðri *especially.*  
 ʒomomio, or umomio *more-over.*  
 ʒonaſ, ḥa, ʒona *than.*  
 maſ, myſ *as likewise.*  
 maſ aſ ʒceaðḥa *likewise.*  
 maſ aon *together.*  
 maſ ſo *even thus.*  
 maſeað *why.*  
 ḥa *than.*  
 ḥac, ḥi *not.*  
 ho *else.*  
 ð *since.*  
 ð cêſle *asunder.*  
 or, [uað ſſi,] *since.*  
 or aſſið *publicly.*  
 or ſſiðol *privately.*  
 or cean, or ciſon *above, superior to,*  
 o ſoſñ *thence*  
 ſe cêſle *together.*  
 ſð *very.*  
 ſoſſi *timely, soon.*  
 ſeac, *rather, else.*  
 ſſaſ *westwards.*  
 ſoſſi *eastwards.*  
 ſſiſ *downwards.*  
 ſſiſ *below.*  
 ſuaſ *upwards, aloft.*  
 ſuaſ *above.*  
 ſul, *before, until.*  
 cæll *on the other side.*  
 tamal *awhile.*  
 caſeiſſi, [caſ aſſi,] *afterwards.*  
 tſeſſiſ *therefore.*  
 tſille ſoſ, or eiſle *moreover.*  
 ſme ſo, ſme ſſiſ *therefore.*

The following Adverbial Particles, when united to words, give them a negative, intensitive, or reiterative character.

Negative, operating as *de, dis, &c.* in English.

am̃, an, do, di, ead, eaz, ear, m̃, neam̃.

*Ex. nō prosperity, anrō adversity; carad a friend, earcarad an enemy.*

Intensitives—an, ʒle, ʒom, ur; as ʒrañā *ugly*, ur-ʒrañā *very ugly*: the an is sometimes written without the a, before a vowel. Reiterative—ad; as buailce *beaten*, adbuailce *beaten again*. in and ion betoken fitness or propriety; as deanta *done*, indeanta *proper to be done*. in, oz and eoz are diminutives, when at the end of words. ro signifies *goodness, aptness, facility*; as roblarba *well flavored*; roleazta *fusible*, from ro leazta *fit to be fused*. com denotes *equality*; as tnom *weight*, comtnom *equal weight*. am̃ betokens *similitude*—it is from am̃uyl.

The signs of the comparative and superlative degrees, and of the infinitive and other words, have been already noticed.

Mr. O'Brien says that these particles properly admit of no change in their orthography, on account of the poetical rule of caol ne caol 7 leatan ne leatan already alluded to, in the composition of words.

## PREPOSITIONS.

Prepositions are such as either never join with pronouns in compounds, or such as may be thus combined; of the first kind are the following:—

a *in, out of.*

dar *by.*

fa *about, unto.*

fad *among.*

ʒan *without.*

ʒo, ʒur, to.

lar *after.*

mar *as, like.*

or *above, over.*

nein *according to.*

ria *before.*

ra, ran *in*; (contractions  
from anra.)

reac, reaca *in comparison  
with.*

rimcjol *about.*

rip *through.*

ra is however used in composition with diaiz, &c. though not with pronouns; ra is also sometimes compounded with substantives, as ran-ball *a tail.*

Prepositions which unite in compounds with pronouns.

az *at with.*

an, an *in.*

an, an, *on, upon.*

ar *out of.*

cuz towards.

cum *to, unto.*

de, di *of, by, off, from.*

do *to.*

eiou, iou *between.*

fa, fo, fu, faoi, fud *under.*

ion *in.*

le *with.*

o *from.*

ne, nr *with.*

noim *before.*

reac *by, besides, without,  
except.*

ran *over, across, above, in  
preference.*

rip, ri *through.*

uad *from.*

um, ur, urme *about, upon.*

To the prepositions we may add a raob, and do raob *concerning*; and azad *against*, a metaphorical use of azad *the face*, and in frequent use, thus—am azad *in opposition to me.*

## CONJUNCTIONS.

These are used to connect the parts of sentences together; and are, 1. copulative, 2. disjunctive, and 3. conditional

The copulative is azur; sometimes written in ancient MSS. thus—acar, our; and still often used in these contracted forms, ar, ur, and r.

The disjunctive are ac, acb *but*; no *or, nor, neither.*

The conditional are

b|oð *although.*

oð *if.*

oð b|p|ž *because.*

že, ž|ð *though.*

žo, žup, župab *that.*

ma, mar, (ma |r,) mo *if.*

muna, mup *unless.*

o|p *for, because that.*

I have put many of the conjunctions of some of the Grammarians among the adverbs, to which they properly belong.

### INTERJECTIONS.

a oh!

at at *hey-dey!*

adbo *murder! (the war cry.)*

ar rpuaz *woe?*

bað *death!*

buð *nonsense!*

baba *brave!*

e|p *hush! hark!*

peuð *look!*

pa paon *alas!*

pu|lleluð *halloo!*

joð joð *cold!*

ma|pž *woe!*

mo nuai|p *lack-a-day!*

mo nuai|pe *shame!*

oð, uð, oðan, oðon *alas!*

## PART III.

## OF COMBINATIONS OF WORDS,

OR

## SYNTAX.

I SHALL not here repeat such rules of Syntax as it was necessary to notice in the preceding parts of this Grammar, and shall omit such as are not agreed on among preceding grammarians.

*The ARTICLE.*

1.—The Article agrees with its Substantive, in gender, number, and case; it is always placed before it, unless an adjective intervene: we have already seen what initial changes it causes in Nouns.

2.—When the Article is preceded by a Particle ending in a vowel, the *a* is omitted, and the *n* is united to the Particle; an apostrophe should properly be placed between them—

*Ex.* δο'η, for δο na, ζα|η to the girl.

If the particle be *α* in, the article is omitted, as *α* βρ|αδ'ηρε in the presence; if it be *α*ηη in, the article requires *τ* to be prefixed, as *α*η ταν in the. In this case, if the following noun begin with a vowel, the *η* is united to it, with an apostrophe, thus—*α*η τ'α η'ωαιρ in the hour; but if with a consonant, the *η* is omitted, as *α*ηη τ'α δ'ε|ς in the house.

3.—When two substantives come together, one governing the other in the genitive case, the article is omitted from the first substantive, and sometimes omitted altogether; as *μα*c *α*η βα|ρνδ the son of the bard, *Ca*|ρλεαν *C*|lleμο|ρ the Castle of Kilmore: the latter case occurs, when there is no limit in the signification of the substantives, or where the noun governed is a proper name.

4.—If a possessive pronoun be joined to the noun governed, the article is omitted; as *obajr*, (not *an obajr*), *ar lair* *the work of our hands*.

## NOUNS.

5.—When two substantives signifying different things come together, the latter is in the genitive case; the substantive is put in the same case also, if it follow the active infinitive, or participle, thus—*iar meallab a carab* *after the deceiving of his friend*.

6.—Substantives signifying the same person or thing require the adjective between them; and, in poetry, compound substantives sometimes have the adjective inserted between the parts of the compound.

7.—An adjective is usually placed after its substantive in the sentence; except sometimes, when it is strongly predicated of the noun, thus—*ir labir an rgr* *that is a strong man*: or, being of one syllable, it may combine with it as a compound, thus—*og-mar* *a heifer*, literally, young beef; and in the latter case the initial of the substantive must in general be aspirated.

Initial aspirations, &c. shall be treated of separately.

8.—An adjective agrees with its substantive in gender, number, and case; but not necessarily—1. where the adjective is in the predicate of a sentence, and the noun the subject, as *atar abarantara vle firneac* *all thy commandments are faithful*; or 2. when the adjective modifies the verb, and not the substantive, as *fir me an rcian zeur* *I made the knife sharp*, (*I sharpened the knife*;) but, if I would say *I made the sharp knife*, it must be thus—*fir me an rcian zeur*, aspirating the initial to make it agree with the feminine substantive.

9.—Adjectives signifying profit, proximity, fitness, or the reverse, require a dative case; such as denote skill, knowledge, power, dimension, &c. require the same case, governed by the preposition *ar*, or sometimes by *de*; while those which signify equality, or similitude (and, as Neilson adds, emotion of mind,)

require a dative also, but governed by the prepositions *le* or *pe*.

10.—All numerals up to 10, or any multiples of 10, are placed before their nouns; but other numbers have the noun between the words composing them, thus—*pe cpañ ap řicře twenty-six trees*. This rule, as given by Neilson, requires the noun to be thus placed, whenever the numeral is expressed by two or more words.

11.—The numeral 2, and all the multiples of 10, prefixed to a substantive, have it in the singular number, thus—*da řear two men*, *da řear deaz twelve men*; but, if an adjective be added, that must be in the plural, thus—*da cran mona two great trees*.

This singular rule induced some grammarians to suppose that there was a dual number in this tongue; but it applies as well to the use of the numbers 20, 100, and 1000, as to that of 2. Neilson says, that after *da* the noun must be in the ablative case.

### PRONOUNS.

12.—The personal pronouns, in which alone there is a distinction of case, agree with their antecedent in gender, number, and case.

13.—If the antecedent be a sentence, the pronoun agreeing with it must be in the third person singular: if it be a noun of multitude, or consist of two persons or things, the pronoun must be in the third person plural; as *ðnonz do bjoð ne řoçla ap muř řab they were a people that were robbers at sea*.

14.—Possessive pronouns are used in a singular manner, in connexion with nouns or verbs signifying office, condition, position, or identity, thus *bįð mē mo řįř I was a king*; this, if literally translated, would be *I was my king*, &c. The Scotch sometimes translate this idiom, in using the English tongue, ex. gr. they say, *he was his lane*, for *he was alone*. The instance of the reflected verb will present to the student another example of this peculiar mode of expression. In such sentences the phrase, *in my state of*, or such like, is

understood. The article is sometimes used in a similar way, thus—*ca re na fearaín he is standing.*

15.—The compound possessive pronouns require a dative case, as *am éig in my house.*

16.—Relative pronouns always precede the verb, but they are often only understood, and not expressed.

17.—Demonstrative pronouns immediately follow the noun to which they belong, as *an fear ro this man*; except the substantive verb be understood, in which case they precede it, thus—*ro an fear here is the man.*

18.—Interrogative pronouns always precede the noun or verb to which they belong; and they combine with the personal pronouns in the asking of questions, without the aid of the substantive verb, thus—*an e an fear is he the man?*

### VERBS.

19.—The verb agrees with its nominative, which generally follows it, in number and person.

20.—Active verbs govern the accusative case.

21.—If two or more nouns join to form the nominative case, and the first of them be in the singular number, the verb must be so too, even though the others be in the plural; and, if the nominative case be a noun of multitude, the verb must be in the plural.

22.—The particle *do* must be used in the past tense of verbs beginning with an *f*, or a vowel; but in all others it may be omitted: and, when used as above, it loses the *o* in the active voice, and unites with the verb, thus—*d'áicín he knew.*

23.—The accusative case is never put between the nominative and the verb.

24.—The auxiliary verb is often elegantly omitted.

*Ex. óin (is) éiré ar nÓia for he (is) our God.*

25.—The instance of a nominative case before a participle in English, as *the man being dead*, (or the ablative absolute in Latin,) is expressed in Irish by a dative case, with the preposition *do*, thus—*áin mbeic do'n fíin marb.*



26.—The infinitive mood and participles govern a genitive case, when the action refers to a determinate object, and follows the verb, as *ða ceahac an capwl to buy the mare*; but, if the object be not determinate, it goes before the verb like the nominative, as *capwl a ceahac to buy a mare*. If the object, though determinate, precede the verb, it will be in the accusative, as *an tōn do fantad to covet the gold*.

27.—The auxiliary verbs, with the aid of a noun, and certain prepositions united with personal pronouns, supply the place of verbs signifying power, necessity, want, knowledge, possession, or any affection of the body or mind, thus—*ca a1p310b a3am I have money*; *buð ocraŕ orra they were hungry*. The prepositions thus used are *do* and *le*, with *ar*, *1r*, or *b1*, and *a3*, *a1*, and *uað* with *b1*, *fwl*, *ca* and *ra1b*.

28.—When *ar* or *1r* follow a word ending with a vowel, or *ba* or *buð* precede a word beginning with one, the verb unites with the word, thus—*maŕ [ma 1r] f10ŕ 1n if that be true*; *b'e13eañ ðam I was obliged*.

29.—The present participle, with the auxiliary verb, is used to express the continuance of a thing; thus—*ca me a3 lea3að mo leaba1ŕ I am reading my book*.

#### PREPOSITIONS.

30.—*an in* has *ra* subjoined to it, when before a consonant. The prepositions *a*, *1*, *3o*, *le*, *ne*, and *te*, have an *r* added to them where they precede an article, thus—*ar*, *1r*, *3ur*, *le1r*, *11r*, *ter*.

31.—When *de*, the contraction of *do e of it*, is used to express the comparative degree, the word *'na*, or *1ona*, *than*, is never used before the noun.

32.—A preposition prefixed to *a which*, requires the subjunctive mood, as *a1c 1n a ra1b F1ñ the place where Finn was*: if the preposition be understood, and if the *1 in 1n* be omitted for the sake of euphony, the *n* must still be retained, and written thus—*'na ra1b in which he was*.

33.—The measure or extent of a thing is expressed by *a1ŕ*, thus—*ða tŕo13 a1ŕ a1ŕðe two feet high*.

## CONJUNCTIONS.

34.—The conjunctions *azur* *and*, and *no* *or*, couple the same cases of nouns.

35.—*azur* is often contracted into *ar* and *r*, so also is the auxiliary verb *ir* often written *r*; when *ar* and *ir* meet together they are contracted into '*rar*', as '*rar mōn an obān and great is the work*'; and, when the vocative case follows '*r*', the vocative sign is added to it, thus—'*ra Ō! and oh God!*'

36.—When two or more adjectives come together, which are relatives to the same substantives, *azur* is often omitted; as *ta ri ōz māirec she is young (and) beautiful*.

37.—The negative generally precedes the disjunctive.

## INTERJECTIONS.

38.—None of the interjections govern a case, except only *māipz*, which requires a dative.

### ASPIRATION, &c.

I have thought that it would afford considerable assistance to the learner, were the several cases brought together, in which the aspiration and eclipsing of initial consonants occur: for his information, therefore, I shall present them in two tables; and, as in some degree connected with the same subject, shall superadd lists of the instances in which the letters *d*, *h*, *m*, *n*, and *t*, are prefixed to original words. The student must be well acquainted with the last six tables, or he will not be able to consult the Irish-English Dictionary; they are all of them indispensably necessary towards the knowledge of the language.

I.—Cases in which the aspiration of the initial consonant takes place, if it be capable of undergoing that change.

1.—Nouns after the article, in the 3d and 4th declensions, as already stated.

2.—All vocative cases, except in nouns beginning with a *t*, followed by a consonant.

3.—Nouns substantive, when they follow an adjective in a compound word; unless they commence with *d*, *s*, or *t*, preceded by an adjective ending with *n*.

4.—Adjectives following substantives, (except their initials be *d*, *s*, or *t*, after one ending in *n*.) in the nom. dat. and voc. sing. of the fem. gender; and in the gen. dat. and voc. sing. masc. gender; also in the gen. fem. plural.

5.—Where one substantive governs another in the genitive plural, the latter may be aspirated, though the article be not used, as *ṛu| ḡabā|ṛ the blood of goats.* (Neilson.)

6.—Masculine adjectives, after the auxiliary verbs *bā* and *buð*, unless they begin with *ð* or *τ*.

7.—All adjectives in the superlative degree of comparison.

8.—Nouns following the numbers *Δοη* and *δο*, except the initial letter be a *ð* or *τ* after *Δοη*.

9.—Nouns following the possessive pronouns in the

singular number, excepting the third person in the feminine gender, and also excepting nouns beginning with *s*.

10.—Compound possessive pronouns have the same influence as their primitives on the initials of nouns following them.

11.—The datives of personal pronouns are aspirated or not, according as may sound best; but they are never so after *б*, *н*, or *т*, thus—*բայի Ծուր*, or *Ծուր*, *it is better for you*; and *յի միտն Ծամ* *I desire*.

12.—The relative pronouns aspirate the initial consonant in the active voice.

13.—The past tense of verbs,

14.—The infinitive mood and the past participle, unless this latter can be eclipsed, and

15.—The potential mood, have their initials aspirated.

16.—The interrogative participle *Եւ* causes aspiration.

17.—Interrogative participles cause aspiration in the past tense of the active voice.

18.—The negative participles aspirate the initial in both voices. (*O'Reilly*.)

19.—The intensitive\* adverbs *ան*, *չե*, *նո* and *բար* aspirate, unless the following initial be *б*, *р*, or *т*; also, the adverbial participles *նա՛ն*, *նի* *not*, *ճ* *since*, *մար* *as*, and *յոնա* *than*, cause aspiration.

20.—The prepositions *ա*, *Ե*, *Եւ*, *բա*, *բայ*, *բնի*, *մար*, *օ*, *նոյն*, *տար*, and *տի*, produce aspiration; *Ե* and *Եւ* aspirate the following noun, even though an article intervene, except in the case of an *р*; *այ* sometimes aspirates, and sometimes not; *չան* will indifferently require an aspirate, or the primary form, in the following noun.

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\* There is much difference of opinion between grammarians respecting the influence of particles on aspiration; and indeed, as Neilson observes, there is some difference between the several inhabitants of distinct provinces—I chiefly follow O'Brien and O'Reilly.

21.—The conjunctions  $\gamma\alpha\rho$ ,  $\mu\alpha$ ,  $\mu\upsilon\eta\alpha$  create aspiration;  $\mu\alpha$  *if*, and the adverb  $\delta$  *since*, cause it in the initial of verbs, excepting  $\tau\alpha$ .

22.—The interjection  $\alpha$ , as a sign of the vocative case, causes aspiration.

II.—Eclipsis of initial consonants takes place in the following cases.

1.—In nouns of the 3d and 4th declensions, after the article, as before specified.

2.—If two nouns follow each other, and the article be omitted, the second is eclipsed, thus— $\alpha\dot{\iota}\rho\iota \xi\rho\alpha\delta \eta\Theta\epsilon$  *for the love of God*. Neilson says that it must be aspirated in the genitive plural.

3.—The genitive singular of adjectives following substantives in the feminine gender, except they begin with *d*, *s*, or *t*, and the substantive end with *n*. They are also often eclipsed, instead of aspirated, in such instances, in the dat. sing. and gen. plural, in the feminine gender. (*Neilson.*)

4.—After the numerals 7, 8, 9, and 10.

5.—Nouns in the plural, after the possessive pronoun, unless they begin with an *s*.

6.—Verbs, in the conditional mood;

7.—And after interrogatives in the present and future tenses.

8.—The participle past.

9.—The prepositions  $\alpha$  *out of*,  $\alpha\dot{\iota}\rho$ ,  $\alpha\eta$ ,  $\gamma\omicron$ ,  $\iota\alpha\rho$ , and  $\rho\iota\alpha$  cause eclipsis.

10.—When the article comes between one of the prepositions,  $\alpha\gamma$ ,  $\alpha\dot{\iota}\rho$ ,  $\alpha\rho$ ,  $\epsilon\alpha$ ,  $\epsilon\omicron$ ,  $\epsilon\rho\iota\delta$ ,  $\gamma\rho\rho$ ,  $\iota\rho$ ,  $\iota\epsilon\rho\rho$ ,  $\mu\alpha\rho$ ,  $\delta$ ,  $\rho\iota\rho$ ,  $\rho\omicron\sigma\iota\eta$ ,  $\rho\epsilon\alpha\epsilon$ ,  $\tau\alpha\rho$ , or  $\tau\eta\epsilon$ , and a noun in the singular number, the noun is eclipsed, as  $\alpha\rho \alpha\eta \omicron\tau\iota\rho$  *out of the country*— $\delta\epsilon$  and  $\delta\omicron$  generally cause aspiration in such a case; but if the noun begin with  $\rho$ , it will be eclipsed.

11.—The conjunction  $\delta\alpha$  *if*, causes eclipsis in active verbs.

III.—The letter *o* is frequently used as a prefix to words, as in the following cases, besides those in which it eclipses *ɛ*.

1.—*do* before a vowel, or an *ɸ* commencing a verb, in the past tense of the active voice, drops the *o*, and unites with the verb.

2.—*do thy*, before a noun beginning with *ɸ*, loses the *o*, and joins with the noun, eclipsing the initial, thus—*ɸɸeapɪ thy anger*, but this should be properly written, thus—*ɸ'ɸeapɪ*.

IV.—The letter *h* is added as a prefix to the following words, beginning with vowels.

1.—To nouns after the article, in the genitive singular of the first declension; and in all the cases of the plural, except the genitive, of the first and second declensions.

2.—To nouns, after the feminine possessive pronoun, in the third person singular.

3.—Nouns after the possessive pronoun *thy*, in which case *do* is frequently exchanged for *h*.

4.—Verbs, after the adverbial particles *nɪ*, *nɪap*, *not*; and *ɪap*, *ɪacap*? *not*?

5.—Nouns, after the prepositions *a out of*, *ʒo*, *le*, *o*, *ɸe*, and *ɸɸe*.

V.—M. when *mo my* occurs before a noun beginning with a vowel, or an *ɸ*, it drops the *o*, and unites with the word, thus—*m'anam my soul*, *m'ɸeap* for *mo ɸeap my husband*.

VI.—N. besides where it eclipses *d* or *g*, is prefixed to words commencing with vowels—

1.—In the genitive plural of nouns—but here it may be more properly considered as being separated from the article to which it belongs.

2.—To nouns after the plural possessive pronouns.

3.—To the possessive pronoun in the third person of both numbers, after the prepositions *so*, *le*, *ô*, *ne*, and *τne*.

4.—To verbs in the conditional mood.

5.—To verbs in the active voice, and after the interrogative particle.

6.—Not only to words beginning with vowels, but the letter *τ*, after the conjunction *ποα* *not*.

7.—To words following the prepositions *α* *in*, and *so* *that*.

8.—As a part of the intensive *η*, the *i* being dropped, thus—*η'ιαρηαηη* *I beseech*, from *ιαρηαηη* *I ask*.

In general, the same accidents which cause eclipsis in consonants, require the prefix of *η* to vowels.

VII.—The letter *τ*, besides the cases wherein it eclipses *τ*, occurs before vowels as a prefix—

1.—To masculine adjectives, in the nominative and accusative singular.

2.—Masculine adjectives preceding substantives require it in the dative singular, as well as in the nominative; feminine adjectives require it in the genitive singular. In the plural, it will in such a case be prefixed to the nominative and dative of both genders.

3.—*δο* *thy* before a vowel, or *τ*, is sometimes changed into *τ*, as well as into *h*, and then the *τ* is lost in the pronunciation, as *τ'ρεατ* *thy husband*. (*O'Reilly, on letter τ.*)

I shall here subjoin a table of the different significations of the particles *α* and *δο*. The learner will be greatly assisted by making himself well acquainted with them.

*α* is 1.—used sometimes for the article *the*.

2.—It is a substantive, with several significations.

3.—An adjective, as *lofty*, &c.

4.—A possessive pronoun—*his*, *her*, *its*, *their*.

5.—A relative pronoun—*that*, *who*, *which*.

A is 6.—A sign of the infinitive mood.

7.—A preposition—*in*.

8.—A sign of the vocative case.

9.—A mark of interrogation.

10.—A sign of affirmation, as  $\alpha \tau \alpha \mu$ .

Οο is 1.—A sign of the dative case.

2.—*Thy* the genitive of  $\tau \alpha$ .

3.—The possessive pronoun—*thy, thine, your*.

4.—A sign of the infinitive mood.

5.—Generally used as a sign of the indicative mood, past tense ; and of the potential mood.

6.—A particle of negation.

7.—With  $\tau \alpha$ , as  $\tau \alpha \text{ } \text{Οο}$  twice.



## APPENDIX.

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I SHALL transcribe, from Neilson's Grammar, an account of the differences of pronunciation of Irish words in the different Provinces of Ireland; and present them, without any comment, on his authority, which is deservedly esteemed.

In general the accent falls on the first syllables, and this principle is observed in the north of Ireland; as *ḁḁḁ bread*; *ḁḁḁḁ a razor*; but, in the south and west, they say *ḁḁḁḁ*, *ḁḁḁḁ*, &c.

Again, when *ḁ* follows *c*, *ḁ*, *m*, or *ḁ*, it is pronounced in the north like *ḁ*—as, *cḁḁḁ a bone*, *cḁḁḁ*; but in the south and west the true pronunciation is retained.

*b* or *m*, when aspirated, was originally sounded as *v*. This ancient pronunciation is still used in the north of Ireland, and in Scotland, and the Isle of Man. It is also retained in the south, in the beginning of words; and in the middle, if joined by a small vowel. But, if the next vowel be broad, as in the word *ḁḁḁḁ harvest*, which should be pronounced *fḁvar*, those of the south entirely suppress the consonant; and, contracting the two syllables into one, they say, *fḁar*.

Throughout Connaught, Leinster, and some counties of Ulster, the sound of *w* is substituted for that of *v*, to represent *b*, and *m*. Thus, *mo ḁḁc*, *my son*, (properly sounded, *mo vac*,) is pronounced, *mo wac*.

*Ch*, at the end of words or syllables, is very weakly expressed by the natives of Ulster; *ḁc* receives no more force, than if it were written *ḁh*; and *c*, before *ḁ*, is quite silent in all the country along the sea coast, from Derry to Waterford; thus, *bḁ ḁḁḁḁ boḁc there was a poor man*, is there pronounced, *bḁ ḁḁḁḁ bḁc*.

Th is also omitted in pronouncing many words, such as *ḁḁḁḁ father*, *ḁḁḁḁ mother*, &c. in most of the counties of Ulster, and the east of Leinster, where these words are pronounced as if written *ḁḁḁḁ*, *ḁḁḁḁ*.

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